

## Two murders in 12 hours leave Hyderabad on edge

Hyderabad: Two people were murdered within 12 hours at different places in the city, causing an alarm among the citizens.In the first case, an auto rickshaw driver was strangled to death at Tolichowki in the city on Thursday morning.According to the police, Mohd Faheem alias Ayub, a resident of Hakeempet, Tolichowki, was killed by his friend Tariq, in the morning near S S Function Hall, Tolichowki road.

"There were issues pertaining to a cell phone between Ayub and Tariq due to which the latter strangled Ayub with a rope, resulting in his death," said ACP Golconda, Syed Fayaz.

## CM Revanth Reddy orders relief measures in Warangal amid floods, to visit affected areas tomorrow

GNS News Agency,Oct 30

Warangal City has been severely impacted by Cyclone Montha, leading to widespread flooding and disruption of daily life. In response to the crisis, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has directed intensified relief efforts for those affected by the deluge.The Chief Minister has ordered the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police to deploy additional boats and mobilise State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel from surrounding districts. He stressed the importance of utilising available flood relief equipment and Hydra personnel where needed.Immediate evacuation measures have been initiated for residents in submerged areas, with families trapped on rooftops receiving essential supplies of drinking water and food packets via drones. CM Revanth Reddy is scheduled to visit Warangal tomorrow (Friday) for an aerial assessment of the flood-affected regions, including Husnabad.In total, disaster response teams have successfully evacuated residents from 30 flooded colonies in Warangal and 15 in Hanumakonda, relocating 1,200 individuals to rehabilitation centres. Three centres have been established in Hanumakonda, while Warangal has nine. The Warangal Municipal Corporation Commissioner has also set up seven special teams to coordinate relief operations throughout the affected areas.Given the unprecedented heavy rainfall, the District Collector has declared a holiday for all schools in the region as a precautionary measure.

## Rule of law key to Viksit Bharat by 2047: LS Speaker



GNS News Agency,Oct 30

New Delhi: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday highlighted that the rule of law, along with its effective enforcement, is fundamental to economic growth and essential for realising the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047.In-augurating a two-day Appreciation Course for the 2024 Batch of the Indian Police Service (IPS), organised by the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE), Birla said that laws and policies framed by the legislature must be implemented effectively on the ground by young civil servants.Birla underlined the need for public representatives, police, and administrative officials to work

## Cyclone Montha’s fringe effect wreaks havoc across 16 Telangana districts



GNS News Agency,Oct 30

Hyderabad: The fringe effect of Cyclone Montha wreaked havoc across 16 of the 33 districts in the State, leading to heavy losses, particularly to crops during the crucial paddy harvesting and cotton procurement season. The storm’s timing worsened the crisis as harvested grain at procurement centres was exposed and left soaked.

Heavy rainfall ranging from 10 cm to 15 cm, and in some districts up to 37 cm, from Nalgonda to Karimnagar, flattened paddy crops in thousands of acres. Preliminary assessments indicate considerable losses to paddy farmers. The rain havoc was severe in Warangal, Khammam and Nalgonda districts. Farmers like Gadagoni Sudershan in Narsampet mandal reported that entire fields ready for harvest were ruined by strong winds and overflow from nearby irrigation tanks. Harvesting was temporarily halted in affected areas to prevent further losses.Stocks awaiting procurement at market yards were soaked, leading to quality deterioration. Chillies and other early-stage crops on black soil were also inundated. While exact figures for Telangana are still being compiled, the damage assessment exercise is yet to begin in a full-fledged manner. The State government has directed departments to quantify losses for assistance.

Farmers in Nalgonda, Hanamkonda, Mahabubabad, Warangal, Khammam and Nizamabad districts are reeling under extensive flooding of paddy and other crop fields. Farmers have been urging officials to assess losses and provide immediate relief.With heavy rains starting on Tuesday evening and continuing through Wednesday, life came to a standstill as midnight downpours in Devarakonda divi-



ties have been established in Hanumakonda, while Warangal has nine. The Warangal Municipal Corporation Commissioner has also set up seven special teams to coordinate relief operations throughout the affected areas.Given the unprecedented heavy rainfall, the District Collector has declared a holiday for all schools in the region as a precautionary measure.

in close coordination for the betterment of society.

Police officers must maintain close contact with the communities they serve to ensure effective policing and uphold the rule of law, he said.Birla also commended the growing number of women officers in the IPS, highlighting their sensitivity and empathy, which strengthen the police force and improve service to the public.He stressed that IPS officers must be technically proficient and well-informed to address modern challenges such as cybercrime and disaster management, alongside traditional policing duties.He stressed that the spirit of the Constitution should guide their actions and conduct in the discharge of their duties.The Speaker stated that their conduct should reflect the spirit of public service exemplified by Baba Saheb B.R. Ambedkar.He emphasised that the Constitution of India continues to guide the nation, noting that after extensive debate and discussion, the Constituent Assembly created a constitution that remains a source of pride and guidance, admired across the world.Birla encouraged the trainee officers to thoroughly study the three new criminal codes enacted by Parliament to understand both the letter and spirit of the law.He also emphasised that IPS officers should adopt a global perspective when addressing transnational issues such as organised crime, terrorism, and cybercrime, while remaining guided by the principles of protecting the innocent and apprehending the guilty.

sion left local streams swollen, flooding colonies. Chandampet recorded the highest rainfall at 14.01 cm, with the district average at 5.9 cm. Seasonal rainfall from June 1 to October 29 stood at 856.5 mm, 44 per cent above normal. Paddy fields ready for harvest were inundated, while IKP centres with piled-up grain stocks failed to reach out to the farmers.

Cotton crop, already damaged by earlier excess rains, suffered further losses as bolls blackened in fields and stored cotton absorbed moisture. Both the Krishna and Musi rivers received heavy inflows, prompting officials to lift gates. Nagarjuna Sagar released water through four gates following an inflow of 3.97 lakh cusecs.

## US grants India six-month waiver from sanctions on Chabahar port project

GNS News Agency,Oct 30

New Delhi: The US has granted India a month’s waiver from American sanctions on the Chabahar port project, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal also said that India’s talks with the US for a trade deal are continuing.

At a media briefing, he said India is studying the implications of the recent US sanctions on Russian oil companies. “We are studying the implications of the recent US sanctions on Russian oil companies. Our decisions naturally take into account the evolving dynamics of the global market,” he said.

“Our position on the larger question of energy sourcing is well known. In this endeavour, we are guided by the imperative to secure affordable energy from diverse sources to meet the energy security needs of our 1.4 billion people,” Jaiswal added.

## Tiger movement triggers panic among cotton farmers in Adilabad

Adilabad: Panic gripped farmers of Kosuguda village in Sirikonda mandal after they spotted pugmarks of a tiger in a cotton field on the outskirts of the village on Thursday morning.The farmers said they were living in constant fear following the big cat’s movement and urged Forest officials to take steps to drive it back into the dense forests to prevent any human casualties.Earlier, another tiger was sighted in cotton farms at Tamsi (K) and Gunjala villages in Bheempur mandal on Wednesday, causing panic among locals. A photograph showing the tiger moving through the fields went viral on social media. Farmers, who had begun harvesting cotton, suspended the work fearing an attack.

## Leaders summit scheduled through diplomatic consultations among four partners: MEA on Quad

GNS News Agency,Oct 30

New Delhi: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday that India sees Quad as a valuable forum for discussion on shared interests of four partners and any leaders summit will be scheduled through diplomatic consultations among India, Australia, Japan and the United States (US).India is due to host the next Quad Leaders’ Summit, the dates of which have not been announced yet.During a weekly media briefing in New Delhi, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal was asked if the issue was discussed during the recent phone conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japan’s new PM Sanae Takaichi."Prime Minister had a conversation with the new incoming PM of Japan. He congratulated her on assuming office. Both leaders discussed India-Japan bilateral ties, this of course is a very important partnership for us; it is multifaceted in character, all these issues were discussed. As far as the question of QUAD is concerned, let me tell you we see it as a valuable forum for discussion of shared interests in a number of areas to the four partners. Any leaders' summit is scheduled through diplomatic consultations among the four partners," he said.Earlier this week, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese had called Quad an "important forum" and "important vehicle" for Australia, India, Japan and the United States to engage.While addressing a press conference in Kuala Lumpur, he expressed hope that the Quad leaders meeting will be held in the first quarter of 2026.When asked about his view on the future of the



Quad, Albanese responded, "The Quad is an important forum and an important vehicle for us to engage Australia, the United States, Japan and India. I'm hopeful that there will be a meeting in the first quarter, I would hope, of next year. Prime Minister Modi is due to host the Quad meeting. This is a busy summit season. President Trump has a busy period. He is travelling to Japan, but also having the meeting in Korea with President Xi. We welcome the fact that the leaders of the two largest economies in the world are having that direct engagement."Quad brings together four countries - India, Australia, Japan, and the United States, with a commitment to work as a force for global good and to support a free and open Indo-Pacific that is prosperous and resilient.The US Secretary of State and the Foreign Ministers of Australia, India, and Japan had met in Washington on July 1, 2025 for the 10th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

## Congress seniors left out of loop on Azharuddin’s Cabinet entry



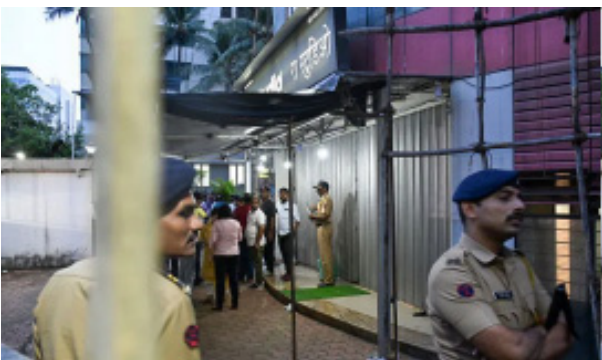
GNS News Agency,Oct 30

Hyderabad: The sudden decision to induct former Indian cricket team captain Mohammed Azharuddin into the State cabinet apparently caught many, including TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud and several senior Congress leaders, by surprise.Speaking to a few media persons on Wednesday, the TPCC president admitted that he had no prior information about Azharuddin's induction. His statement, party sources said, underscored

the lack of consultation and the growing discontent among senior leaders over what they see as unilateral decisions by certain individuals within the party.

Several leaders are reportedly unhappy about being sidelined in key decisions and have expressed unease over the timing of Azharuddin's inclusion, which they believe signals the party's attempt to woo a particular community ahead of the Jubilee Hills bye-election.However, brushing aside Wednesday's surprise, Goud on Thursday accused both the BRS and BJP of opposing Azharuddin's induction. "This exposes the nexus between the two parties," he alleged during a press conference in Nizamabad.He further claimed that the BJP's central leadership is exerting pressure on Governor Jishnu Dev Varma. The cabinet had already nominated Azharuddin and TJS president Prof. Kodandaram Reddy as MLCs, and their approval is pending with the Governor, he said.On the two remaining vacant berths, Goud said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy would take a decision in December. Dismissing reports that he is aspiring for the Deputy Chief Minister post, he remarked, "I am happy with the TPCC president post. It is a much bigger post than others."

## Hostage drama ends in Mumbai’s Powai: 17 kids rescued, accused shot dead



GNS News Agency,Oct 30

Mumbai: Mumbai Police on Thursday rescued 19 persons including 17 children from a studio in Powai area while the man who had held them hostage succumbed to bullet injuries sustained during the operation, officials said.Rohit Arya (50), who released a video statement during the hostage drama that went on for about an hour, saying he wanted to "ask questions to some people", was shot by police when he tried to harm the children with an air gun and later died at hospital, officials said.

"At about 1.30 pm, Powai police station received information that a person had taken 17 children hostage at Mahavir Classic building. The Mumbai Police team conducted a rescue operation and safely freed all the children. During the operation, while rescuing the children, the person got injured, was immediately rushed to the hospital and later declared dead," said Deputy Commissioner of Police Datta Nalawade."All the children are safe," said Satyanarayanan, Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and Order).Arya had called the children — boys and girls around 15 years old — for an audition for a web series. The auditions were going on for the last two days, police officials said.Besides an air gun, he was carrying some chemicals, they added.Initially, police did not mention that there had been a firing during the operation. Arya was declared dead at 5.15 pm, officials said.After receiving a call about a man holding children hostage inside R A Studio in Mahavir Classic building, Powai

police officials along with a Quick Response Team (QRT), Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad and a fire brigade team reached the spot, said DCP Nalawade.Before the police entered the studio, Arya released a video which went viral on social media."I am Rohit Arya. Instead of (committing) suicide, I made a plan and have taken a few children hostage....I have very simple demands. Very moral, ethical demands. I have some questions. I want to speak to some people and on their answers, if there are any counter-questions, I want to ask them. But I want these answers. I do not want anything else. I am not a terrorist, nor do I have any demand of money. Want to make simple conversations," he said."The slightest wrong move from your end may trigger me to set this whole place on fire....whether I die or not, the children will be unnecessarily hurt, traumatised for sure....I should not be held responsible," he said.

## CM Chandrababu reviews impact of cyclone Montha, says reduced loss

GNS News Agency,Oct 30

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has described Cyclone Montha as having played "hide and seek" while creating significant challenges for the state. In a review meeting held in Amaravati on Thursday, he noted that technological advancements had helped to mitigate the cyclone's damage. Following the cyclone's landfall at Antarvedi, heavy rainfall was experienced across the state, prompting immediate assessments.

"Initially, we anticipated that the cyclone would come ashore near Kakinada, but it ultimately made landfall at Narasapuram," CM Naidu explained. He reported that the situation had improved considerably within a week, thanks to coordinated efforts across all departments. The Chief Minister highlighted that rainfall exceeded forecasts, with notable downpours occurring in areas beyond their expectations, including heavy rains in Telangana.



# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## Joint offensive can stem 'digital arrest' menace

It is not as menacing as any massacre or brutal killing, nor does it cause slow-poison death but when it comes to a spine-chilling effect on one's mindset it is inarguably as deadly as life-threatening diseases like cancer. And that in a nutshell describes the silent killer that has been taking a heavy toll on humanity without any firing or physical assault. Indeed, today the very mention of 'digital arrest' sends shockwaves given the rising number of such cyber scams where in fraudsters posing as police officers, cybercrime officials, or government authorities con gullible persons and make a killing.

The perpetrators use intimidation, threaten legal action, and flash fake documents to make the victims believe that they are involved in serious crimes like money laundering, and then demand a "fine" or "security deposit" to avoid arrest. Coupled together they are abetment to suicide. Many people, unable to bear the trauma and mental anguish, are resorting to the extreme step. The psychological manipulation is of such an order that the scammers warn the victim against talking to anyone or "digitally confine" them to a video call to prevent them from getting help.

The menace has reached such overwhelming proportions that even the country's President has reacted. Droupadi Murmu expressed deep concern that 'digital arrest' has become one of the most dreaded threats to citizens. Dwelling deeper into the issue, Murmu said, "Just about 10 years ago, the expression 'digital arrest' would have been impossible to understand. Today, it is one of the most dreaded threats to citizens." Digital arrest is a scam aimed at extorting money from victims using fear, deceit and intimidation, which are quite worrisome, she said. And rightly so too.

## Fake Links, Phishing Calls, Malicious Apps: How Flipkart Recommends You Stay Safe While Shopping Online



Hyderabad:As online shopping becomes second nature for millions across India, so too does the need to stay vigilant. Cyber fraudsters are constantly refining their tactics, fake websites, scam calls, and malicious apps are just a few of the tricks they use to mislead unsuspecting users.

These threats aren't seasonal. They're persistent and opportunistic, surfacing whenever there's a chance to exploit urgency or excitement. They can sneak into everyday moments, from browsing exciting deals to that quick "add to cart" click. That's why it's critical to stay alert and informed, not just during major events, but every time you shop online. This guide lays out simple, effective actions you can take to protect your Flipkart account and safeguard your data and privacy. Whether you're facing a suspicious link or handling a shady call, here's how to stay cyber secure.

Shopping Online? Here's How to Stay Safe and Spot a Scam Before You ClickBeware of Scam Calls and Social Engineering: If someone calls claiming to be from Flipkart and asks you to install an app or share sensitive information (OTP, PIN, CVV), hang up. Flipkart never asks for such details. Don't Fall for Too-Good-To-Be-True Offers: Fraudsters lure users with unrealistic discounts, like smartphones for ₹2,499. Always verify deals on the official app before clicking on links in messages, emails, or social media. Watch Out for Malicious Links — Across SMS, Email & Pop-ups: Links sent via messages or emails that promise prizes or urgent account updates may install spyware or redirect to phishing pages.

Avoid clicking on unknown links and delete suspicious messages immediately. Trust Only Verified Platforms: Stick to official channels, the mobile app, and verified social handles. Fake websites and apps often mimic branding; always double-check URLs and developer names. Check for Signs of a Fake App or Website: Look out for odd spellings, smudged logos. On websites, broken carts, inactive menus, and missing security certificates (no lock icon in the address bar) are red flags. Strengthen and Protect Your Account: Use a strong, unique password with numbers, symbols, and uppercase letters. Change it regularly and never share it with anyone. If needed, reset using OTP via the official app.



: Dr. Chamakura Bhadrareddy attended the wedding ceremony of Subhash Nagar Division Corporator Suresh Reddy's daughter in Quthbullapur constituency and blessed the newly married couple.

## Bajaj Finserv Mutual Fund Crosses 1 Million Folios, Reinforcing Investor Trust and Growth Momentum

Disclosure of percentage of AUM by geography	
Geographical Spread	% of Total AUM
Top 5 Cities	66.69%
Next 10 Cities	10.72%
Next 20 Cities	5.36%
Next 75 Cities	6.15%
Others	11.08%
Total	100.00%

Hyderabad:Driven by its commitment to innovation, disciplined investing, and long-term value creation for investors, Bajaj Finserv Mutual Fund has achieved a key milestone in its journey, crossing the 1 million investor folios mark across its mutual fund schemes in just over two

years since launch. The achievement reflects Bajaj Finserv Asset Management Limited's steady progress, growing investor trust, and focus on delivering differentiated investment solutions. Speaking on the milestone, Ganesh Mohan, Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv Asset Management Limited said, "Crossing the milestone of 1 million folios marks a significant achievement – not just for us, but our investors as well. It reflects the trust placed in our investor-first philosophy and performance-driven solutions. We remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering transparent, research-backed investment strategies that empower individuals to achieve their financial aspirations. By integrating human expertise with quantitative analytics, we navigate market complexities with precision, always keeping investor outcomes at the core of our decisions. This milestone inspires us to further innovate, enhance our offerings, and strengthen our engagement with the investor community."

The company's strategy is anchored in innovation, win-win partnerships, and a future-ready business model driven using data and technology platforms. Its focus on digital enablement and providing a seamless investor experience through diverse channels including WhatsApp, Empower, Savings+ has played a pivotal role in attracting a diverse investor base across geographies. Since the launch of its first scheme in June 2023, Bajaj Finserv AMC has grown significantly in both size and scope, with a total AUM of ₹28,814.16 crore (as on 30th September 2025)\*. Simultaneously, the company continues to build on its mission of financial inclusion and long-term wealth creation, offering a diversified suite of mutual fund schemes tailored to evolving investor needs. Within a short period of time, the fund house already manages 17 active schemes (8 Equity, 5 Debt, and 4 Hybrid), along with 5 passive schemes.

## Canon Inaugurates the Largest Camera Service Center in India at Noida

Bringing customers closer to Canon's technical expertise through personalized service and accessible touchpoints

Hyderabad:Canon India today announced a significant milestone in its customer service journey with the inauguration of India's largest Canon Service Center in Noida. This newly integrated facility brings together the Front Office and Camera Repair Centre under one roof, creating a unified and enhanced service experience for Canon customers. The integration marks a strategic step toward streamlining Canon's service operations, ensuring faster turnaround time, direct engagement with service experts, and seamless coordination between customer support and technical teams. The new facility will serve as a one-stop solution for product inquiries, diagnostics, and repairs, reinforcing Canon's commitment to providing world-class service experiences.

Speaking about the announcement, Mr Toshiaki Nomura, President & CEO, Canon India, said: "At Canon India, customer satisfaction has always been at the centre of our operations. The integration of our Front Office with the Camera Repair Centre reflects our continuous efforts to bring efficiency, transparency, and convenience to our customers. In today's fast-evolving world, customers increasingly value the opportunity to engage directly with technical experts to better understand their products and the care that goes into maintaining them. This new integrated facility in Noida embodies that philosophy, offering a more



personalized, informed, and seamless service experience that truly strengthens the bond between Canon and its users." In addition to this integration, Canon India is delighted to announce the opening of a new Camera Collection Point at Nehru Place, New Delhi, one of the city's most prominent commercial and IT hubs. This initiative is designed to provide customers with an additional convenient drop-off location, and greater accessibility to Canon's professional repair services. With a service network spanning over 19,000+ PIN codes across India, these developments reaffirm Canon India's unwavering commitment to customer-centric innovation and operational excellence, ensuring that every Canon user enjoys a smooth, reliable, and enriching service experience.

## We Stand by the Farmers – CM Revanth Reddy; Issue to Be Taken to Agriculture



Minister Thummala Nageshwar Rao: Congress Karimnagar Parliament In-Charge Velichala Rajender Rao""CHITTIMALLA MAHENDAR, KARIMNAGAR BUREAU, OCTOBER 30, INDIAN CHRONICLE:""Congress Party Karimnagar Parliamentary Constituency In-Charge Velichala Rajender Rao assured that the Congress government would stand firmly by the farmers affected by recent cyclone-induced crop damage. ""On Thursday, Rajender Rao visited the cyclone-affected villages of Nagunur, Vallampahad, and Teegalaguttapalli in Karimnagar Rural Mandal, where he inspected damaged paddy and other crops. At the IKP Centre in Teegalaguttapalli, he examined the soaked paddy stocks and enquired about the extent of damage. He consoled the distressed farmers and

urged them not to lose hope, assuring that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Congress government are fully committed to supporting them. "Rajender Rao stated that he would personally bring the details of crop losses to the attention of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageshwar Rao, ensuring that no farmer is left without assistance. He instructed the agricultural officers to accurately record the details of the affected farmers and assess the damage comprehensively. He emphasized that it is the responsibility of the officials to safeguard the interests of the farmers and guarantee timely compensation from the government. "Rajender Rao also promised to discuss with the Agriculture Minister to ensure that every grain of the rain soaked paddy is purchased by the government. He directed the officials to take preventive measures to protect farmers from further losses, reiterating that the Congress government places the highest priority on farmer welfare. He assured the farmers that there is no need for anxiety, as the Congress government stands as a strong pillar of support for them. During his visit to the IKP Centre in Teegalaguttapalli, where rainwater had accumulated heavily, Rajender Rao immediately instructed municipal staff to open drainage channels to let the water out and protect the paddy from further soaking. "Agriculture Officer Satyam, Congress leaders Kolagani Anil Kumar, Ananthala Ramesh, along with several farmers and local residents, participated in the program.

## Nirmala Bharosa Panel Set for Victory in Urban Bank Elections

– Velichala Rajender Rao""CHITTIMALLA MAHENDAR, BUREAU KARIMNAGAR, OCTOBER 30 – INDIAN CHRONICLE""Karimnagar, October 30:""The Nirmala Bharosa Panel candidates are on the path to victory in the upcoming Urban Bank elections, said panel leader Velichala Rajender Rao. Speaking at a press conference held at Hotel Maitri on Thursday, Rajender Rao stated that only honest and ethical individuals were chosen as candidates for the panel. "He said that those loyal to the Congress Party and actively engaged in social service are receiving strong public support. "We have personally met every voter, and we are confident of winning with a huge majority," he added. Rajender Rao mentioned that they had recently met and received blessings from BC Welfare Minister Ponnampallabharathi, Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageshwar Rao, Government Whip and Vemulawada MLA Adi Srinivas, and Jagtial MLA Sanjay Kumar, which further strengthened their confidence. He criticized the former management for corrupt practices that tarnished the reputation of the Urban Bank. "If our panel wins, we will reform the Urban Bank and restore the people's trust," he asserted. ""He outlined five key guarantees from their manifesto""Complete modernization and digitalization of the Urban Bank, Corruption-free administration, Non political



management of the bank, Establishment of new branches in Karimnagar and Jagtial, Customer protection and trust-building, "Rajender Rao also promised to increase the existing deposits from ₹72 crore to ₹200 crore within three years and expand advances from ₹58 crore to ₹150 crore. "We will transform the Urban Bank into Telangana's first Smart Bank," he declared. He added that several community and professional associations have extended their voluntary support, including retired pensioners, Reddy, Velama, Padmashali, Mudiraj, and BC associations,

## JSW MG Motor India Prioritizes Clean Cabin Air Offers PM 2.5 Air Filters Across its Vehicle Range



Hyderabad:As the festive season brings joy across India, it also coincides with a sharp rise in air pollution caused by firecrackers, stubble burning and other factors. The resulting smog fills the air with invisible pollutants that can harm you and your family. Recognizing this growing concern, JSW MG Motor India is helping customers breathe cleaner air inside their vehicles through advanced PM 2.5 Air Filters and Air Purifiers across its portfolio".

All MG models including the Astor, Gloster, Windsor, Comet, and ZS EV comes equipped with PM 2.5 Air Filters, and the popular MG Hector features a PM 2.5 Air Purifier with an inbuilt Air Quality Index (AQI) display. Together, these innovations ensure that MG owners can enjoy every journey in a cleaner, healthier in-cabin environment, even when outdoor air quality dips.

PM 2.5 refers to fine particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns, so tiny that it can bypass the nose and throat and reach the lungs. MG's PM 2.5 Air Filters trap up to 95–99% of these harmful particles, including dust, smoke, soot, pollen, and bacteria.

The PM 2.5 Air Purifier in the MG Hector takes cabin safety further with activated carbon filter, effectively removing pollutants, allergens, and odors. The integrated AQI display gives passengers real-time updates on the air quality inside the cabin, creating awareness and peace of mind.

This initiative aligns with JSW MG Motor India's vision for a cleaner, smarter, and sustainable future. The company has consistently introduced technologies that improve everyday mobility while protecting the environment from pioneering connected cars to leading India's EV transition with models like the ZS EV, Comet, and Windsor. By integrating advanced filtration and purification systems across its range, JSW MG Motor India continues to prioritize customer well-being while promoting environmental responsibility.

## Police who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty will remain forever in the hearts of the people: Uppal Traffic Inspector G. Nagaraju"



""VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 30 (Indian Chronicle):""As part of the Police Martyrs' Commemoration Week, a bike rally was organized on Thursday under the supervision of the Uppal Traffic Police Station on Uppal Ring Road. "Speaking on the occasion, Uppal Traffic Inspector G. Nagaraju said that the ideals of the police martyrs who laid down their lives in the line of duty can be honored by respecting the law and strictly following traffic rules. He stated that thousands of police personnel have sacrificed their lives for public safety and social security, and their sacrifices will remain an eternal source of inspiration. "He mentioned that the government, police department, and the public continue to support the families of the police martyrs, giving them strength and encouragement. He emphasized the importance of conducting Police Martyrs' Week to remember their sacrifices and to strive toward fulfilling their ideals. "Inspector Nagaraju added that the sacrifices of the brave police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty have become a permanent part of history. On this occasion, floral tributes were paid to the police martyrs. Sub-Inspectors and staff of Uppal Traffic Police Station participated in the program.

## Residents Submit Petition to Corporator on Local Issues



""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Cherlapally, October 30, (Indian Chronicle): Residents of Sriram Nagar and IG Colony in Cherlapally Division submitted a petition to local corporator and GHMC Standing Committee member Bonthu Sridevi Yadav regarding various civic issues in their areas. The corporator heard their concerns and assured the residents that prompt action would be taken to resolve the problems.



## CM Revanth Reddy's development initiatives will ensure Naveen Yadav's victory

Uppal Constituency Congress Party in-charge Parameshwar Reddy



with GHMC Floor Leader Dharpally Rajasekhar, conducted an extensive campaign urging residents to support Congress candidate Naveen Yadav in the upcoming by-election. "Parameshwar Reddy explained to the residents about the development works being carried out by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, stating that these initiatives will play a key role in ensuring Naveen Yadav's victory. He appealed to the locals to extend their full support to the Congress candidate. The residents responded positively and assured their complete support, he said. "He further mentioned that the campaign being carried out in Rahmath Nagar Division over the past four days has been receiving an overwhelming response from the public. Locals have been expressing that Naveen Yadav, being a local resident, is always accessible and stands by the people in times of need. "Parameshwar Reddy expressed confidence that Naveen Yadav's victory in the Jubilee Hills by-election is certain. He added that the people of Meenakshi Nagar gave an enthusiastic response to their campaign. A large number of Congress leaders, activists, and women from Rahmath Nagar Division participated in the event.

""VADDEPALLI KISHORE, October 30 (Indian Chronicle):""As part of a door-to-door campaign in Meenakshi Nagar, located in Rahmath Nagar Division of Jubilee Hills Constituency, Uppal Constituency Congress Party in-charge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy, along

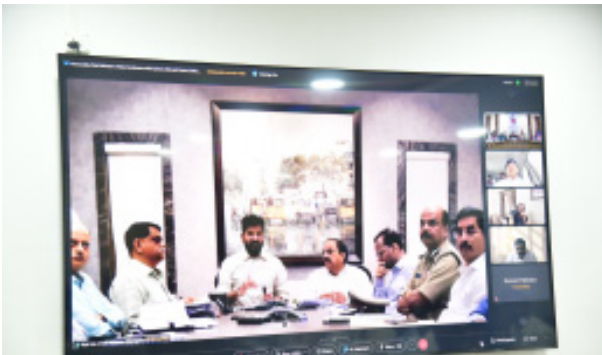
## BC Conference Poster Unveiled on November 1: Greater Hyderabad Jana Samithi President M. Narasayya

"Vaddepalli Kishore, Hyderabad, October 30 (Indian Chronicle):""Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) Greater Hyderabad President M. Narasayya announced that the party will organize a BC (Backward Classes) Conference on November 1. "The poster unveiling ceremony for the conference was held in Gandhinagar under the leadership of Musheerabad TJS Convener Merugu Srinivas Yadav. "Speaking on the occasion, Narasayya demanded that the issue of BC reservations be included in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution and that a constitutional amendment be made in Parliament to ensure its protection. "He stated that the Telangana Jana Samithi is organizing the BC Conference at the Bashir Bagh Press Club on November 1 to press for the implementation of 42% BC reservations. "He appealed to all BC community members of the Musheerabad constituency to attend the conference



in large numbers. "Among those who participated in the event were Gandhinagar Division Jana Samithi President Gundelli Ravinder Yadav, City Vice President Punireddy Jayapal Reddy, and leaders Gaddam Shankar, Satyanarayana, Krishna, Mahesh, and others.

## Be Available at the Ground Level to Help People: CM Revanth Reddy–CM Reviews Monta Cyclone Relief Measures with District Collectors via Video Conference



CHITTIMALLA MAHENDAR, KARIMNAGAR BUREAU, OCTOBER 30, INDIAN CHRONICLE""Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed ministers and officials to remain available at the ground level and extend all possible support to people affected by Monta Cyclone. The Chief Minister, along with Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Tummala Nageswara Rao, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Seethakka, Komatireddy Venkata Reddy, Ponnamp Prabhakar, Konda Surekha, CM's Advisor Ven Narender Reddy, and Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, conducted a video conference with all district collectors to review the cyclone relief and rehabilitation efforts. From Karimnagar, District Collector Pamela Satpathy and Police Commissioner Gaous Alam attended the conference from the Collectorate meeting hall. During the meeting, CM Revanth Reddy instructed that a mandal-level officer be appointed in charge of each paddy procurement center. He directed that procurement, arrangement of gunny bags, tarpaulin covers, transportation, and if necessary, local storage of grain be properly managed. He emphasized that daily ground-level reports from each procurement center must be submitted to the district collector. The CM also ordered the establishment of a control room in every collectorate to monitor procurement operations. "Paddy procurement is a top priority for the government," he said, urging collectors to take special care and work actively at the field level. "He instructed officials to halt vehicular movement on damaged roads and near overflowing streams or water bodies. Local police must coordinate to ensure public safety. Expressing concern over heavy rainfall in the erstwhile Warangal district, the CM described the timing of the cyclone during harvest season as unfortunate and said farmers had suffered great distress. "He announced that all official leaves in cyclone-affected areas are canceled, and officers must remain in the field. The CM ordered the Electricity Department to prepare an emergency

action plan to restore power supply on a war footing and ensure uninterrupted electricity to the public. "Electric poles, transformers, and other equipment should be kept ready in the field, and mobile transformers must be prepared," he said. "The CM emphasized the importance of preventing loss of life and advised ministers in charge of each district to stay in constant touch with the people. Under the Disaster Management Act, function halls may be used as temporary storage for paddy. SDRF teams will be deployed to the affected districts, and toll-free numbers should be set up at collectorates. Low-lying residents must be relocated to safe shelters with proper medical care, food, and essential facilities, he said. Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said that DISCOM officials have taken steps to prevent power disruptions. Around 75% of the repairs to 33/11 KV substations and transmission lines have already been completed. He instructed collectors to use available funds immediately for relief measures. Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy directed engineers from Assistant to Chief Engineer level to stay alert and ensure sufficient tarpaulin covers at procurement centers. He instructed that wet paddy be procured and shifted to boiled rice mills immediately. "Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao stated that rainfall exceeded double the forecast and caused severe crop losses. He instructed officials to conduct field inspections and prepare crop loss estimates urgently. He also directed the immediate transfer of wet paddy to rice mills and to finalize an action plan for its purchase. "Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy ordered the deployment of police security near low-level culverts to prevent travel and ensure that no loss of life or property occurs. "Endowments Minister Konda Surekha said that the Warangal district administration had taken firm measures to protect people's lives. She stated that quality food was being supplied at rehabilitation centers and that food packets were air-dropped via drones to those stranded in floodwaters. "Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao said that Monta Cyclone has had a severe impact on Telangana and that heavy rains are likely to continue for another two days. He advised all departments to stay vigilant and provide full support to affected citizens. The R&B and Panchayat Raj departments were instructed to carry out temporary road repairs on a war footing to restore transport. He also directed officials to assess the damages to canals, tanks, and medium irrigation projects across the state. Additional Collectors Ashwini Tanaji Wakade, Lakshmi Kiran, Municipal Commissioner Praful Desai, RDO Maheshwar, DRO Venkateshwarlu, and several officials from various departments also attended the meeting along with Collectors and Police Commissioners.

## Jio-bp Achieves Another Milestone – India's Largest Electric Vehicle Charging Hub Inaugurated at Devanahalli

Chittimalla Mahendar, Karimnagar Bureau, October 30, Indian Chronicle: "In a major step towards cleaner and smarter mobility in India, Jio-bp has unveiled the country's first and largest integrated EV charging and mobility hub at Devanahalli, Bengaluru, featuring 28 charging points. "This state-of-the-art facility provides petrol, diesel, CNG, and advanced electric vehicle charging under one roof. Each charger is capable of delivering up to 360 kW of fast charging power, enabling quicker turnaround times for EV owners. Along with fueling options, the center offers a café, shopping outlets, and other customer amenities, ensuring a complete mobility experience. Jio-bp Chairman Sarthak Behuria stated that this center will serve as a model for the future of integrated transportation infrastructure in India. Located near Kempegowda International Airport, the hub is designed to cater to both personal and commercial EVs, providing fast,



reliable, and efficient charging solutions. Currently, Jio-bp operates around 7,000 charging points across more than 1,000 locations in the country, reaffirming its commitment to sustainable mobility, customer convenience, and technological advancement.

## Mega Blood Donation Camp Held in Memory of Police Martyrs at Mallapur



""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Ghatakesar, October 30, (Indian Chronicle): On the occasion of Police Martyrs' Day, a

mega blood donation camp was organized this morning under the supervision of Rachakonda Malkajgiri DCP at V.N.R. Gardens, Mallapur, within the Nacharam Police Station limits. Youth from Ghatkesar Minority community actively participated and donated blood in memory of the police martyrs.

The event was attended by Rachakonda DCP Padmaja, ACP Chakrapani, Ghatkesar Circle Inspector Balaswamy, and Sub-Inspector Heena. Former ex TPCC Social Media Coordinator Mohammed Abdul Khayyum, Ghatkesar Municipal Congress Minority President Farooq, along with youth members Bottu Suri, Khamar, Vishnuvardhan, Usman, Kaleem, Mujafar, Jameer, Meer Abbas, Pavan, and others also took part in the program.

## AIYF Demands Probe into Irregularities in Nursing Colleges Across Telangana

""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, October 30, (Indian Chronicle): The All India Youth Federation (AIYF) Telangana State Committee staged a protest in front of the Directorate of Medical Education (DME) office at Koti, demanding a thorough investigation into large-scale irregularities in nursing schools and colleges across the state. The AIYF leaders also submitted a memorandum to DME Director Narendra Kumar. AIYF state president Vali Ullah Khadri and secretary Kalluru Dharmendra alleged that several nursing schools and colleges have been operating illegally for years, violating government norms. They said that many institutions are functioning in unauthorized locations instead of their officially approved addresses, and in some cases, multiple institutes—ranging from two to six—are being run from the same building. They accused the DME officials of negligence and corruption, claiming that infrastructure, faculty, and clinical training standards have been completely ignored. The AIYF demanded immediate suspension of the DME, the Nursing Council Registrar, senior assistant Dasu, and computer operator Srinivas, and urged that the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) conduct an investigation into their roles in the irregularities. The leaders also pointed out serious delays in lecturer promotions within nursing colleges. Around 200 nursing officers who completed M.Sc Nursing are awaiting promotions for more than a year. While 560 lecturer posts are vacant, only 93 officers were recently promoted as assistant professors, leaving 653 positions unfilled. They alleged that a woman officer working at the DME office collected



?10,000 each from about 100 nursing officers, promising promotions, and more recently took ?2 lakh each from 12 candidates who were not even eligible for promotion. The AIYF said the shortage of teaching staff is severely affecting nursing education, especially in newly established government nursing colleges where there are no permanent faculty members. In some colleges, only two lecturers are available instead of the required twenty, they said, calling the situation extremely alarming.

They demanded that the government immediately fill the vacant lecturer posts and conduct a full-scale probe into the irregularities. If the government fails to act, the AIYF warned of launching a statewide agitation. AIYF state vice president T. Sathya Prasad, state committee members R. Balakrishna, P. Shiva Kumar, and Shaik Mahmood also took part in the protest.

## Malla Reddy Attends Orientation Day 2025 at Malla Reddy College of Pharmacy



""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, October 30, (Indian Chronicle): Chamkura Malla Reddy, former minister and MLA of Medchal constituency, attended the Orientation Day 2025



program at Malla Reddy College of Pharmacy, Maisamma Guda, under Gundlupochampally Municipality limits. He interacted with the students of B.Pharmacy, Doctor of Pharmacy, and M.Pharmacy courses and guided them on academic and career paths.

## Chief Minister Revanth Reddy Orders High Alert in Cyclone-Affected Districts



""""""Bhukya Ranjith Naik, Bhadradi kothagudem Bureau, October 30, Indian Chronicle: Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has directed district authorities to remain on high alert across all cyclone-affected areas in the state. Based on the warnings issued by the Meteorological Department, the Chief Minister said that 16 districts are likely to face the impact of the cyclone and instructed all departments to work in close coordination and take immediate precautionary measures. "The Chief Minister reviewed the situation with district collectors and senior officials of various departments through a video conference and issued clear guidelines on safety and relief operations. ""In view of the weather conditions, I have postponed today's visit to Warangal. I will con-

duct an aerial survey of Warangal and Husnabad regions tomorrow to personally assess the situation," he said. ""He instructed the ministers in charge of the affected districts to remain available at the ground level and support the people. He further directed officials to maintain constant coordination with the public and intensify relief efforts. "The government is fully prepared to support the people. No loss of life should occur. Efforts must be made to prevent crop and livestock damage. Every official must stay vigilant round the clock," the Chief Minister emphasized. "He also advised the electricity department to ensure uninterrupted power supply and called for traffic diversions at vulnerable road points to avoid disruptions. People must be alerted against venturing near overflowing streams and rivulets, he added. ""

The Chief Minister directed officials to keep emergency medical services ready and make use of hydra services wherever required. He instructed that those stranded in inundated areas should be immediately shifted to safer places and that essential supplies like drinking water and food packets should be delivered using drones if needed. ""Relief operations in flood-hit areas of Warangal should be further intensified, he ordered. The available SDRF teams must be deployed immediately, and hydra personnel and rescue equipment should be used to ensure timely assistance to the public. ""District Collector Jitesh V Patil attended the video conference from the IDOC conference hall along with District SP Rohith Raju, Additional Collector D Venugopal, Agriculture Department Officer Baburao, Civil Supplies Department Officer Rukmini and other officials from various departments.

## State Leader's Son Celebrates Birthday at Adarsha Old Age Home

""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kapra, October 30, (Indian Chronicle): BRS party state leader from Kapra division, Regalla Satish Reddy, celebrated his younger son Regalla Karan Teja Reddy's birthday on Wednesday night with great enthusiasm. The celebrations were held at the local Adarsha Old Age Home. During the event, Satish Reddy said that parents should teach their children the value of service from a young age. The elderly residents blessed Karan Teja Reddy, wishing him a long and healthy life. Organizers Bal Reddy, Mana Snehitham representatives, and others took part in the program.





## Open House Program Conducted at Kothagudem III Town Police Station as Part of Police Martyrs' Commemoration“



““Bhukya RanjithNaik,Bhadradi kothagudem Bureau,October 30,Indian Chronicle:As part of the Police Martyrs' Commemoration Week, an Open House program was organized for school students at the Kothagudem III Town Police Station on Thursday. Several students from various schools in Kothagudem town actively participated in the event.”“The program was held under the directions of

Kothagudem DSP Rehman, following the orders of the District SP. During the visit, students were given detailed information on the functioning of the police department and the equipment used during duty operations.”“Officials explained to the students the roles of the Dog Squad, smoke guns and shells used for riot control, and the working system of the Bomb Disposal Unit. They were also briefed on Door Frame Metal Detectors, SHE Teams, Cybercrime policing, the significance of Bharosa Centre, fingerprint analysis, and the role of the Clues Team.”“Further, awareness was created among students on cyber safety, precautions to avoid falling victim to cybercrimes, and the procedure to file complaints immediately in case of any crime.”“DSP Rehman said that this initiative is one among several activities being conducted until October 31 to involve the public in the Police Martyrs' remembrance events. “It is our collective responsibility to honor the sacrifices of police martyrs,” he stated.”“CI Venkateshwarlu of Chunchupalli, CI Shivaprasad of Kothagudem III Town, CI Karunakar of I Town, Admin RI Lal Babu, Bharosa Centre SI Aruna, SHE Team RSI Ramadevi, along with officials from the Fingerprints unit, Clues Team, Dog Squad and other staff members were present.

## Ramanthapur JSPS Government Homoeo Medical College: Introduction Programme for 2025–2026 BHMS Students“Under the leadership of Homoeo Medical College Principal Dr. N. Lingaraju

““VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 30 (Indian Chronicle):““The JSPS Government Homoeo Medical College at Ramanthapur organized an introductory programme for the new batch of BHMS (Bachelor of Homoeopathic Medicine and Surgery) students for the academic year 2025–2026 on Thursday under the supervision of the college principal and AYUSH Department Additional Director, Dr. N. Lingaraju.”“The chief guests for the programme were Anti-Narcotic Bureau DSP Saidulu and CI Srinivasulu. Addressing the students, they explained that the Anti-Narcotic Department is striving to create awareness among students about the dangers of drugs. They advised students to stay away from ragging and narcotic substances to secure a bright future. They emphasized the need to conduct awareness activities to ensure that no student becomes a victim of ragging.They also explained in detail how the lives of those addicted to drugs have been ruined. The officials said that the government is implementing several strict measures and conducting awareness programmes to curb ragging and drug abuse.Later, Principal Dr. N. Lingaraju mentioned that for the past ten years, he has been working for the development of the college by providing essential facilities and ensuring proper hostel accommodation for students. He reaffirmed his commitment



to the progress of Homoeopathic medical education.Vice Principal Srinivas Reddy and E. Krishnamurthy also spoke on the occasion, stating that the college is providing all necessary infrastructure and academic support to students, on par with private colleges.At the end of the event, all attendees took a pledge to stay away from drugs and work for the welfare of society.

## Bicycle Patrolling Conducted in Cherlapally



““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Cherlapally, October 30, (Indian Chronicle): Cherlapally Police carried out bicycle patrolling in EC Nagar and nearby areas to enhance community safety and ensure police visibility in residential localities. The patrolling team interacted with local residents and shopkeepers, advising them on public safety measures and the importance of immediate reporting of suspicious activities. Awareness programs were also conducted on Dial 100 emergency services, Cyber Crime helpline 1930, and the harmful effects of drug abuse. The initiative aims to build better police-public relations, promote a drug-free community, and ensure quick response to public grievances.

## Collector Invites Youth to Join Three-Month Residential Furniture Assistant Training Program



“““Bhukya RanjithNaik,Bhadradi Kothagudem Bureau,October 30,Indian Chronicle:District Collector Jitesh V Patil IAS has appealed to the youth of Bhadradi Kothagudem district to make use of the employment opportunity being offered through the three-month residential Furniture Assistant Training Program. A drawing test for the selection of candidates will be held on November 6 at the Collectorate.”“The Collector said that the program will equip the youth with skills in furniture production, installation, and machine operation, enabling them to secure stable employment. He informed that eight tribal youths from the district have already completed the first batch of training at NSTI–FFSC, Hyderabad, and are currently working as apprentices earning Rs 15,000 per month.”“For the second batch, 20 candidates will be selected, and further batches will continue in future phases, he added.”“Interested candidates must register through the Google form or QR code provided, on or before November 5. The drawing test will be conducted on November 6, 2025, at 10 AM at the Collectorate premises. Selected candidates will undergo training from November 15, 2025, at NSTI–FFSC, Hyderabad.”“Eligibility Criteria““ Minimum qualification: 10th class pass““ Age between 18 to 35 years““ Must qualify in

the drawing test““ Aadhaar, bank account, and PAN card are mandatory““ Aadhaar and bank account must be linked to the candidate's mobile number““The Collector said that after successful completion of the training, candidates may earn between Rs 15,000 and Rs 30,000 per month depending on placement opportunities.”“Registration, Boarding and Food Arrangements“

The district administration will sponsor the registration fee, while Abhimanya Interio Pvt. Ltd. Managing Director, Dilip Varma, will provide hostel and food facilities in Hyderabad under the CSR initiative. The Collector urged the youth to take full advantage of this opportunity.”“Google Form: <https://tinyurl.com/4zv2bn67>“Contact Numbers: 7995806182, 7799470817



At the wedding of the son of Seetharam Reddy from Reddy Colony, Senior reporters and Senior journalists attended the ceremony. INDIAN CHRONICLE Medchal-Malkajgiri district staff reporter, NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), congratulated the newlyweds and extended best wishes as they blessed the couple.

## Tributes Paid to Prominent Builder Late Polishetty Baburao



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, A.S. Rao Nagar, October 30, (In-

dian Chronicle): The tenth-day ceremony of noted builder and Kranti Builders proprietor, Late Polishetty Baburao, was held on Thursday at A.S. Rao Nagar in a solemn and respectful manner. Several dignitaries, friends, and family members gathered to pay their heartfelt tributes and remember his remarkable contributions to the construction field and community welfare. Speakers on the occasion recalled Baburao's commitment to quality, integrity, and social responsibility. They mentioned that his projects stood as symbols of trust and excellence, earning him a reputation as one of the most respected builders in the area. Among those who paid floral tributes to his portrait were MLC Bhanu Prasad, BRS state leader Singireddy Somashekar Reddy, former ex corporator Pajuri Pavani Reddy, leaders Bandari Neelam Reddy, Damodar Rao, Polishetty Srinivas, Polishetty Ravi, Polishetty Kalyan, and Madhu. They expressed condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for his soul to rest in peace. Family members and associates pledged to continue Baburao's legacy by upholding his values of honesty, dedication, and service to society.

## Drug Abuse Can Destroy Families, Warns ASP Vikranth Kumar Singh

“Shaik Sharief,Bhadrachalam, October 30,Indian Chronicle:“Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Vikranth Kumar Singh emphasized that drug addiction not only ruins the lives of individuals but also pushes their families into severe financial and emotional distress. He spoke at an awareness program titled War on Drugs held at the Reddy Sadan in Bhadrachalam on Wednesday.”“Addressing students, youth, and drivers, the ASP cautioned that substance abuse leads to multiple social, health, and economic problems. “The farther the youth stay away from drugs, the brighter their future will be. Once addicted, they face lifelong consequences,” he said.”“He advised that those who have already fallen into the trap of drugs should immediately seek help from de-addiction centers and medical professionals. “People in transport professions like bus, lorry, and auto drivers must remain extra cautious. Their responsibility towards the passengers and their own families should always come first,” he added.”“Citing the recent Kurnool bus accident, the ASP said that a single act of negligence under intoxication can lead to tragic consequences. He urged drivers to not only



stay away from drugs but also create awareness among the public about the dangers of substance abuse.”“As part of the campaign, ASP Vikranth launched posters on drug awareness.”“Circle Inspector Nagaraju, SIs Ramakrishna, Syam and Tirupati, along with police staff participated in this awareness meeting

## Inauguration and Vision for Development in Peerzadiguda Municipality 8th Ward



““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Peerzadiguda, October 30, (Indian Chronicle): The inauguration of newly constructed Cement Concrete (CC) roads worth ₹40 lakhs took place successfully at Sri Sri Nagar, 60 Feet Road, under the 8th Ward limits of Peerzadiguda Municipality. Former Mayor Amar Singh attended the program as the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, Amar Singh highlighted his commitment and vision for the continuous development of the 8th Ward in Peerzadiguda Municipality. Senior leader Bandi Srinu along with local colony members Nagaraju, Yarra Illaiah Yadav, Sudhakar, Nanda Kishore, Srinivas, Mallareddy, Giri Babu, Raghuram and others participated in the event.

## Essay writing competitions across the country to encourage students on the occasion of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 150th birth anniversary:

Rajya Sabha member Bhagwat Karad's instructions to district collectors in a video conference“

“Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's role..By encouraging youth in nation building, programs will be organized in the districts in phases from 31st of this month to 25th November for students with the aim of Vikasit Bharat by 2047.. Padayatras.. Unity March..Essay writing competitions... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Collector Bhaskara Rao ““(Mandu Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. October 30):- In order to promote national unity and patriotism among the people on the occasion of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 150th birth anniversary, the Central Youth MP and Rajya Sabha member Bhagwat Karad said that the "Sardar@ 150 Unity March" will be organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Sports in collaboration with My Bharat and NSS. He spoke at a video conference organized with district officials and media representatives from the video conference hall on Thursday as part of the implementation of the Sardar @ 150 Unity March program. He said that as part of the Sardar @ 150 Unity March program, the program is being organized with the aim of promoting national integration, patriotism, especially the role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in unifying the nation, and encouraging the youth in nation building with the aim of Vikasit Bharat by 2047. “ As part of this, programs will be organized in phases in the districts from 31st of this month to November 25th. He asked the officials to organize a 3-day padayatra at the district level during the Sardar @ 150 Unity March, ensure that each padayatra is 8 to 10 kilometers, and ensure that at least 500 youth and students participate in this padayatra. As part of the Sardar @ 150 Unity March, Vallabhbhai Patel said that core committees have been formed at the district level under the chairmanship of the District Collector with officials, and coordination committees have been formed with officials, District Youth Service Officer, other officials and representatives. Speaking on this occasion, Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskar Rao said that as part of the Sardar @ 150 Unity March programs, the youth will be informed about the life of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the district level, and debates and essay writing will be conducted for college and school students. He informed that a national level Maha Aikita Padayatra will be organized on November 26. This program will start from Karamsad (Gujarat), the birthplace of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and will cover 152 km. and end at the Statue of Unity. These are 5 5 5 My Bharatportal (<https://mybharat.gov.in/>) Essay writing competitions, quiz competitions, etc. Competitions are organized. Young men and women should participate in the competitions online. They want to prepare a route map district-wise. A padayatra will be organized in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district on November 10th, and he asked the district administration to take appropriate steps in this regard.“Local body Additional Collector Bhaskar Rao,



speaking to media representatives, said that as per the orders of MP and Rajya Sabha member Shri Bhagwat Karad and the Central Government, programs will be organized in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district on the 10th of next month under the auspices of the District Collector to make the Sardar 150 Unit March program a success.” District Youth Officer Ganta Rajesh, District Youth Sports Development Officer Dhananjaneyulu, Intermediate Education Officer Ramani, District Public Relations Officer Arundhati and others participated in this program.

## Financial Assistance Provided to Parveen Begum for Medical Treatment



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, October 30, (Indian Chronicle): Medchal MLA Chamakura Mallareddy distributed a cheque of ₹29,000 from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to Parveen Begum, wife of Pasha Beg, a resident of Godhumakunta village in Keesara Mandal, to support her medical expenses. The event was attended by former Godhumakunta Sarpanch Akiti Mahender Reddy and BRS party leader Vangeti Mahender Reddy.



## Sabitha Indra Reddy Reviews Route Map Ahead of KTR's Visit to Somajiguda on November 4



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, October 30, (Indian Chronicle): In view of Minister K.T. Rama Rao's scheduled visit to Somajiguda Division on November 4, Sabitha Indra Reddy inspected the route map and reviewed the arrangements. She instructed officials and party leaders to ensure smooth traffic management and crowd convenience during the visit. Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy, Malkajgiri MLA Marri Rajasekhara Reddy, MLC Naveen Reddy, former MLA Pilot Rohith Reddy, Somajiguda Division Party President Appu Khan, former corporator Mahesh Yadav, Madhu Yadav, and several other local leaders participated in the inspection. They discussed various development works to be inaugurated during KTR visit and took stock of the ongoing infrastructure projects in the area.

## MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy Receives Swami Vari Teertha Prasadam Following Family Visit to Tirumala

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Dr.A.S.Rao Nagar, October 30, (Indian Chronicle): Recently visited Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam BRS senior leader Kasam Mahipal Reddy along with family and had the divine darshan of Lord Venkateswara. On this occasion, met MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy today and presented him with Swami Vari Teertha Prasadam. During the meeting, they exchanged pleasantries and discussed various ongoing development works in the constituency. The MLA conveyed his good wishes and appreciated the spiritual visit, emphasizing the importance of such divine experiences in bringing positive energy and motivation to serve the people better.



## We Will Completely Reconstruct Urban Bank: Velichala Rajender Rao



CHITTIMALLA MAHENDAR, KARIMNAGAR BUREAU, OCTOBER 30 — INDIAN CHRONICLE “Congress Party Karimnagar Parliament constituency in-charge Velichala Rajender Rao has vowed to completely overhaul and revive the Karimnagar Urban Cooperative Bank, stating that the institution had collapsed into a state of disorder due to the mismanagement of previous governing bodies. Speaking at a press conference held at Maitri Hotel, Karimnagar, on Thursday evening along with the panel candidates of his team, Rajender Rao announced the Urban Bank election manifesto, outlining the reforms and modernization plans they intend to implement if elected. “He criticized the former board members for using the bank for their own benefit rather than its growth, alleging that the previous administrations pushed the bank into financial and operational decline. Rajender Rao lamented that elections had been stalled for the past eight years through legal cases filed by those very individuals who are now seeking power again. He recalled that the bank's reputation was tarnished due to several corruption allegations, illegal memberships, and internal conflicts that were widely reported in the media. “Instead of working for the welfare of depositors and members, the leadership damaged the institution's prestige,” he remarked. “Rajender Rao further alleged that during the earlier tenure, gold-plated ornaments were pledged as pure gold to obtain loans, and such irregularities brought disrepute to the bank. He pointed out that while other banks expanded deposits and diversified investments, the Urban Bank's management remained inactive and irresponsible. “To bring about change, he said he had formed a panel comprising honest, service-minded individuals from diverse social backgrounds inspired by Congress ideology and principles. He appealed to all Urban Bank members to give his panel a chance to serve and prove their integrity. He emphasized that the “Nirmala Bharosa Panel” was committed to working transparently and selflessly, without any vested interests. “Support from Various Associations “Rajender Rao expressed gratitude for the voluntary support extended by around 20 associations in Karimnagar, including the Lorry Owners Association, Autonagar Association, Hamali Sangham, Padmashali,

Kapu, Reddy, Vishwabrahmana, Goud, IMA Doctors' Association, and the Bar Association. “He said retired employees, community leaders, and worker unions from both Karimnagar and Jagtial had extended their solidarity, which reflected the growing public desire for reform. Rajender Rao also recalled the valuable contributions of his late father Jagapathi Rao, who had played a key role in the Urban Bank's growth and had successfully led four winning panels in the past. “From 18,000 members earlier, the bank's membership has now fallen to just 9,000 this shows the extent of decline. We will rebuild it completely with transparency and modernization,” he asserted. “Ministers' Blessings “Rajender Rao said that he and his panel members had met Ministers Ponnampaluri Prabhakar, Tummala Nageswara Rao, and Government Whip Adi Srinivas, who blessed the team and extended moral support. “He also acknowledged Jagtial MLA Sanjay Kumar's backing, noting that two strong candidates from Jagtial were proposed with his recommendation. “Rajender Rao promised that his team would make the Urban Bank a model cooperative institution comparable to nationalized banks, equipped with air-conditioned branches, online banking, electronic fund transfers, and prompt customer service. “He announced plans to open new branches in Husnabad, Huzurabad, Jammikunta, and Choppadandi, in addition to expanding the existing Karimnagar and Jagtial branches. “Currently, the bank has ₹72 crore in deposits and ₹58 crore in advances. Rajender Rao pledged to increase deposits to ₹200 crore and advances to ₹150 crore within three years. “We will transform Urban Bank into Telangana's first Smart Cooperative Bank,” he declared confidently. “Five Guarantees in the Manifesto “Rajender Rao outlined five guarantees in the Urban Bank election manifesto: Zero political interference — The bank's administration will function independently, free from political influence; Digital transformation All departments will be modernized with digital systems for faster, more transparent service; Customer-friendly banking Staff will be trained to treat account holders with utmost respect and efficiency; Rapid and fair loan disbursement Loans and services will be provided swiftly under a structured plan; Expansion and inclusivity Member and account-holder base will be increased substantially, ensuring all communities BCs, SCs, STs, OCs, and minorities benefit equally. He also promised strict anti-corruption measures, transparent functioning, and immediate service to customers without any bureaucratic delays. “Appeal for Support “Rajender Rao urged all Urban Bank members to vote for change, support the Nirmala Bharosa Panel, and elect them with a clear majority. “Let us move from controversy to credibility,” he said, pledging to uphold honesty and public trust. The press conference was attended by panel candidates Moola Venkata Ravinder Reddy, I. Lakshman Raju, Anuragu Kumar, Wazir Ahmed, Uyyala Anandam, Chindam Srinivas, Nalla Srinivas, Manne Ananta Raju, Munifalli Phanita, and Damerla Srilatha Reddy, along with Congress leaders Mallikarjun Rajender, Akula Narasanna, Panjala Swami Goud, Anantula Ramesh, and Battu Vara Prasad, among others.

## Complete All Indiramma Houses in Final Phase and Prepare for Housewarming Ceremonies:

In-Charge Collector Garima Agarwal Issues Firm Directives.”

“P.S.ASHOKAN“Karimnagar Bureau. “In a decisive move to accelerate the completion of the Indiramma Housing Project, In-Charge District Collector Garima Agarwal instructed officials to finish all houses currently in the final stage of construction and make them ready for Gruha Pravesham (housewarming ceremonies) without delay. “Addressing a review meeting with officials from the Housing Department, Rural Development, MPDOs, and Mandal-level Special Officers at the Integrated District Office Complex Conference Hall, the Collector assessed the district's progress in implementing the Indiramma Housing Scheme. “She reported that out of 7,918 houses sanctioned in the district, 5,361 have reached the foundation stage, 2,042 are at basement level, 1,011 at wall level, 962 at slab level, and 8 houses have been fully completed. The Collector also informed that a total of ₹49.85 crores in financial aid has already been deposited directly into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries. “Ms. Agarwal reaffirmed that the State Government launched the Indiramma Housing Scheme with the noble aim of providing secure homes to the underprivi-



leged, and therefore, all departments must work in close coordination to ensure timely and quality completion of houses. She emphasized that each mandal must inaugurate at least one Indiramma house within a week, reflecting visible progress in implementation. “Appreciating the Konaraopet Mandal officials for their exceptional performance, she encouraged all officers to emulate their efficiency and commitment.

## Jubilee Hills By-Election Campaign: BJP Candidate Appeals for Support



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, October 30, (Indian Chronicle): As part of the Jubilee Hills by-election campaign,

Gandhamalla Anand Goud and Buddi Srinivas, President of Medchal Rural District, organized a public meeting highlighting key political issues. They criticized the Congress government for failing to fulfill the six promises made within the first 100 days of coming to power, accusing it of misleading the people of Telangana. They also pointed out instances of corruption and irregularities during the decade-long rule of the BRS party. Addressing the gathering, Jubilee Hills BJP Assembly candidate Deepak Reddy Lankala urged voters to support the BJP by casting their vote for the party symbol, the lotus, in the upcoming by-election. The event saw participation from prominent leaders including Mr. Kallikota Kamalakara, President of Jawaharnagar West, OBC leader Raghavendra Chari, BJP leader Ram Nayak, and Prasad. The program was organized under the supervision of Rangula Shankar, State In-Charge of BJP OBC Morcha, and Srinagar colony, Divisional In-Charge.

## Grand Opening of Hotel Paris, a New Multi-Cuisine Restaurant, in Peerzadiguda Municipality, Uppal Depot

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Peerzadiguda, October 30, (Indian Chronicle): Peerzadiguda Municipality, Uppal Depot The much-anticipated inauguration of the new multi-cuisine restaurant, Hotel Paris, was held today with grandeur and excitement. The event saw the presence of several notable personalities from the region. Elected Parliament member Etala Rajender attended as the chief guest, while former ex Mayor Amar Singh graced the occasion as a special guest. Other prominent attendees included former ex Deputy Mayor Kurra Shivakumar Goud, former ex Corporator Bacha Raju, senior leader Pappula Anji Reddy, along with several other local leaders and dignitaries. During the event, Amar Singh extended warm congratulations to the team of Hotel Paris, appreciating their efforts in offering a delightful culinary experience to the community. The inauguration ceremony marked the beginning of what is expected to become a popular dining destination, offering a variety of cuisines to cater to diverse tastes.



## No Hardship to Farmers Will Be Tolerated,” Declares Market Chairperson Pulluri Swapna — Strict Directives Issued to Procurement Officials.“



“P.S.ASHOKAN“Karimnagar Bureau. “In a firm and compassionate stance towards the welfare of farmers, Jammikunta Market Committee Chairperson Pulluri Swapna asserted that any inconvenience or exploitation faced by farmers at paddy procurement centers will not be tolerated under any circumstances. “Amidst persistent heavy rains, Ms. Swapna conducted an on-site inspection of the paddy procurement center located at the old agricultural market. During the visit, she reviewed the distribution

of Bardhan gunny bags and the verification of paddy moisture levels (matcher) and cautioned officials against causing even the slightest difficulty to farmers. “She instructed that paddy arriving with moisture levels between 14 and 21 should be purchased promptly without delay or unnecessary formalities. Emphasizing transparency and fairness, she warned that any individual harassing farmers in the name of “cuttings” during bag-filling would face stringent disciplinary action. “The Chairperson further directed that each paddy bag must not exceed 41 kilograms, urging farmers to exercise due diligence in ensuring proper weighing and handling. “In a move to promote accountability, Ms. Swapna ordered that track sheets must be mandatorily provided to all farmers before their paddy is dispatched to the mills. Should any miller subsequently claim inferior quality or impose unjust weight deductions, farmers have been advised to immediately report the matter by contacting her directly at 9949191274 or meeting her in person. “She reiterated that her top priority is to ensure a transparent, farmer-friendly, and corruption-free procurement process, assuring cultivators that their interests will be protected with utmost seriousness and commitment.

## Former Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy Praises Uppal Leaders Actively Campaigning in Jubilee Hills Elections



“VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 30 (Indian Chronicle): “Former Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy praised the Uppal booth in-charges — Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, Edula Kondal Reddy, Masa Shekhar, Kokonda Jagan, and Cheryala Srinivas — who are energetically conducting innovative campaigns in the Jubilee Hills election. “Speaking with Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy, Sabitha Indra Reddy appreciated the dedicated efforts of the Uppal leaders, noting that they are working very hard for the party. “Later, addressing the gathering, she said that every worker who serves the party with dedication and commitment will receive due recognition and better opportunities in the future. She called on everyone to continue working with the same commitment for the victory of the party. Shyam, Banti, Sai, and others participated in the program.

## Measures To Control Road Accidents: Collector Venkatesh Dotre

“Indian Chronicle” kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. October, “Asifabad Road accidents in the district Collector Venkatesh Dotre said that special measures are being taken to prevent road accidents. On Wednesday, SP Kantilal Patil, Kagaznagar Sub-Collector Shradha Shukla and ASP Chittaranjan along with officials of various departments held a review on road accident prevention at the Collectorate conference hall in the district headquarters. The Collector said that necessary signs should be installed and precautions should be taken to prevent accidents, and safety sign boards and speed limit warning boards should be installed in areas where accidents occur. He said that steps should be taken to ensure that every vehicle driver wears a helmet and seat belt. He said that cases should be registered against those who drive vehicles under the influence of alcohol. He said that ambulances should be kept on standby to transport road accident victims to the nearest hospital. The Panchayat Raj and Road Buildings departments should fill potholes on the roads under their jurisdiction, and repair culverts and



bridges. “Collector Venkatesh Dotre speaking “They want the repairs to be completed. Flexi signs should be installed on road safety in congested areas of municipalities and speed breakers should be installed for speed control. They said that the main road work from Sai Baba Mandir in the district center to Gundi Flyover Bridge should be taken up quickly.



# Maharashtra Govt has declared ‘meagre’ compensation for rain-hit farmers: Sharad Pawar



GNS News Agency,Oct 30

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar said Friday that the financial assistance announced by the Maharashtra Government for farmers affected by the recent heavy rains in the state is inadequate, and will not help them recover their losses.Pawar also said the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) will not celebrate the first day of Diwali Friday in solidarity with the affected farmers in the state.“Disaster strikes... but those in power in the state and at the Centre have the responsibility to provide help to those in trouble and get them out of the situation. The state government has declared a meagre amount for a few people. But the extent and nature of the damage are huge, and the farmers don't feel that the meagre amount will get them out of the crisis. The farmers are angry with the state government,” he said.

“The main reason is that many districts of Maharashtra witnessed very heavy rainfall in the last month. At a few places, it was flooding, and at others, it was heavy flooding. Not only were the farms destroyed, but the soil was washed away as well. Thus, the affected farmer is very disturbed. Farming is everything for a farmer, and if everything is lost, then how will he celebrate Diwali? So, our organisation has decided to join the farmers in their sorrow,” he said.“My

thinking on the issue is different. I don't want to bring politics into this, but we should all come together and do everything possible to bring the suffering farmers out of the crisis. Those in power and a few others tried to provide help to farmers, but the help of the state government is without open hand,” he added.On the meeting with farmers of Purandar opposing the proposed international airport, the NCP(SP) chief said, “The main demand of farmers of Purandar is to change the site of proposed international airport but the decision cannot be taken by me or officers it has to be taken by the Union Government..”Wherever the airport has to be developed, Pawar said the farmers will have to part with their land. “It is their likely rehabilitation as well as compensation that has created restlessness in them. So, the opposition is also there,” he said, adding he assured the farmers that no one can acquire land illegally for the proposed airport.

“If the airport has to be developed, then the farmers cannot be destroyed by snatching their land, but proper compensation, as well as alternative land, has to be provided to them. I have assured them of taking up the issue with the chief minister and guardian minister, urging them to call a meeting with farmers to resolve the concerns,” said Pawar.The veteran leader said he will meet Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis after Diwali to discuss the issue.On the Bihar Assembly elections, the NCP(SP) chief said that his party alliance partners are unhappy with what is happening in that state. “There is misuse of power and a lot of problems in the electoral roll. We will take up the issue with the Election Commission of India, and let's hope they will take a proper decision,” he added.Meanwhile, the Pawar family has also cancelled this year's annual Diwali festival celebration in Baramati, citing the death of a senior family member. “The function of visitors reaching Baramati to meet Sharad Pawar has also been cancelled,” NCP(SP) working president Supriya Sule, daughter of Sharad Pawar, said recently.

# Twist in Hathras ‘encounter’: Police free arrested men due to ‘lack of evidence’, file closure report

GNS News Agency,Oct 30

A week after two men were arrested following an alleged shootout in Hathras, they were released from jail due to “lack of evidence” in the two cases lodged against them.The incident had sparked controversy after their families claimed the encounter was fake and that the men — Deva (22) and Sonu alias Omveer (30) — were picked up from their homes. Following the allegations, two police officers were suspended and separate inquiries were ordered by the district administration and police.

The names of the duo surfaced during the investigation of a robbery and house trespass case registered at Mursan police station. A separate case of attempt to murder was also registered against them in connection with the alleged firing incident.Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP), Hathras, Ashok Kumar Singh, said: “The closure report has been filed in both the robbery and attempt to murder cases due to lack of evidence. The two accused have now been released from jail.”Circle Officer, Hathras, Yogendra Krishna Narayan, who is supervising the probe, also said: “The closure report has been filed on the basis of insufficient evidence found during the investigation of the case.”He added that if any new evidence is found, then the case could be reopened.Incidentally, the UP government recently released a report stating that over the past eight-and-a-half years, since it came to power in 2017, over 250 criminals were killed and over 10,000 injured in encounters.The case dates back to October 9, when Amit Agarwal, a local trader who runs a fertiliser shop in Hathras, lodged a complaint alleging a break-in at his residence. In his complaint, he had claimed that two unidentified men, their faces covered with scarves, forcibly entered his house and misbehaved with his family, including women. When they raised an alarm, the intruders fled.Based on his complaint, a case was registered under sections related to robbery, house trespass, and attempt to murder against the unidentified assailants.

During their probe, police had said they examined CCTV footage installed near Agarwal's residence and, with the help of local informers, identified the two suspects as



Deva and Omveer.A day later, the duo was shown arrested in an alleged shootout. The police had claimed that the two were apprehended during a cross-firing incident, during which Omveer sustained a bullet injury to his leg. The police claimed to have recovered the weapon from their possession.However, their families had contested the police version, claiming that Aligarh residents Deva and Omveer were picked up from their homes and later falsely shown as being arrested in an “encounter” on October 10.The families, joined by several local public representatives, had met senior police and administrative officials to register their protest and demand action. They also staged demonstrations outside the office of the District Magistrate and the Mursan police station, seeking a fair and transparent investigation.ASP Singh said inquiries ordered into the entire incident are still underway, and the next course of action will be decided based on the reports.Hathras District Magistrate Rahul Pandey had constituted a committee headed by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate to examine the allegations. In a parallel move, Deputy Inspector General (Aligarh Range) Prabhakar Chaudhary had instructed the Additional Superintendent of Police, Aligarh, to carry out an independent inquiry into the matter.Superintendent of Police, Hathras, Chiranjeev Nath Sinha, had earlier suspended Station House Officer (SHO) Arti Singh of Mursan police station and Inspector Mukesh Kumar, in-charge of the Anti-Theft Team, on charges of negligence during the arrest proceedings of the two accused.

# Mumbai restaurants not prohibited from serving herbal hookah: Bombay High Court

)GNS News Agency,Oct 30

The Bombay High Court earlier this week said restaurant owners in Mumbai are not prohibited from running a business or serving hookah, which does not contain nicotine or tobacco, and directed them to follow the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), and its subsequent amendment.The restaurant owners had moved the Bombay High Court against visits by police officers without notice, who they said threatened to shut down their businesses, asking them to stop serving herbal hookah. The petitioners include owners and operators of Ustaadi at Crawford Market, The Nest in Bandra, Rustico in Fort, and Faham restaurant in Kala Ghoda, among others.

A Division Bench of Justices Riyaz I Chagla and Farhan P Dubash on October 14 passed the order on a plea by restaurant owners filed in July this year, which claimed that such actions were being taken despite the HC verdict of August 2019, which permitted restaurants to serve herbal hookah and the same was complied with by the owners.The plea sought direction to the respondent authorities to forthwith stop their illegal and unlawful raids and threats on the petitioner's restaurants.

Senior Advocate Zubin Bheramkamdin, along with advocates Rajendra Rathod and Dhruv Jain, argued that the actions of shutting down the service of herbal hookah at the petitioners' restaurants were illegal and unlawful. They said such actions were being taken in accordance with the June 6, 2025, circular of the Maharashtra Home Department to police, which stipulated that if illegal hookah parlours are found at any location, the responsible police officers must be held accountable and strict action must be taken against them.“These acts of illegally and unlawfully shutting down the service of herbal hookah at the petitioners' restaurants and threatening to shut down the petitioners' restaurants completely, are not only causing huge monetary losses to the petitioners but also directly affecting the earning capacity and livelihood of their employees,” the plea stated.After perusing submissions, the bench found it appropriate to dispose of the plea by directing the respondents



to act in conformity with the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), and subsequent amendment of 2018, which provided that “hookah bar means an establishment where people gather to smoke tobacco from a community hookah or narghile which is provided individually.”

“The petitioners are not prohibited from running a business of a restaurant or serving hookah, which, according to the petitioners, does not contain tobacco or nicotine,” the bench noted.The bench said, in the event, if there is any infraction of provision of the COPTA, a police officer, not below the rank of the assistant police inspector, is empowered to take legal action for the infringement of the conditions under the Act. Moreover, the said officer can take action on the hookah parlours where drugs or narcotics are provided and consumed, which falls under the purview of the police department.“As long as the Petitioners comply with the provisions of COTPA and do not serve any prohibited substance in the hookah parlour, then no action can be taken against them,” the bench noted.Disposing of the plea, the bench said authorities “shall strictly act under the provisions of COTPA.”“If it is found that the Petitioners are selling/using any substance prohibited under the COTPA, then surely an action can be taken against them.”

# Spotted ‘climbing a building’: Murder suspects from Rajasthan’s escape ends in Kolkata; three arrested



GNS News Agency,Oct 30

Quick thinking by residents and prompt action by the Kolkata Police led to the arrest of three individuals allegedly involved in a high-profile murder case in Rajasthan. The arrests were made in the Phoolbagan area on Thursday evening.The incident unfolded when residents on Narkeldanga Main Road noticed three persons, seemingly “from outside the state”, moving around “suspiciously”. Concerns grew when one of them was allegedly seen attempting to climb down from the cornice of a residential building. Suspecting foul play, residents immediately alerted Phoolbagan Police Station.

A patrolling team soon reached the spot and began

# Bengaluru engineering student arrested for raping senior in college washroom

GNS News Agency,Oct 30

A 21-year-old student at a premier engineering college in Bengaluru was arrested by the police Thursday on charges of rape following a complaint by his senior that he sexually assaulted her in a men's bathroom in the college premises on The accused, identified as a sixth-semester student, was arrested after the woman, a seventh-semester student, filed a police complaint on October 15, a police officer said. “A case of rape has been registered. The suspect has been arrested, and sent to judicial custody. The matter is under investigation,” the officer added.

According to the police, the two students know each other, and were previously batch-mates before the accused dropped a semester.“The accused claims it was consensual, and the victim has said she was assaulted. It is a matter of investigation,” said another police officer.The vic-

questioning the trio. The suspects initially offered what police described as a “frivolous story” to explain their presence, which officials said was quickly found to be false.“As we approached, the accused attempted to flee, leading to a brief ‘cat-and-mouse’ chase before the police successfully detained all three,” said a police official.A detailed examination allegedly revealed that the detained men were wanted in connection with a recent murder in Rajasthan. “The detained persons are reportedly wanted in a murder case registered at Kuchaman Police Station, Didwana district, Rajasthan,” the official added.Phoolbagan Police then contacted the Station House Officer (SHO) of Kuchaman Police Station, who confirmed their alleged involvement in the case. The three arrested have been identified as Ganpat Gurjar, Mahesh Gurjar, and Dharmendra Gurjar.The murder in question occurred on Tuesday morning in Kuchaman, Rajasthan, where 40-year-old Ramesh Rulania, who owned a bike showroom and a hotel, was shot dead by an unidentified gunman while exercising at a gym on Station Road, sparking panic in the area. The Rajasthan government had announced a reward of Rs 25,000 for information leading to the identification and arrest of the culprits.The three detained men are currently in custody at Phoolbagan Police Station and will be handed over to the Rajasthan Police for further investigation. A team from Rajasthan is expected to arrive in Kolkata on October 17.

tim said she did not report the sexual assault out of fear of being shamed, but later drew courage from her friends and reported the sexual assault. She later told her parents, and approached the police with their consent, said an officer.

According to the police complaint filed by the student, she arrived at the college on the morning of October 10, and received a call from the accused asking her to collect some materials he had. The victim told the accused she would meet him during the lunch break.In the afternoon, the accused is alleged to have asked the victim to accompany him to the college's architecture block. After she went with him, the accused forced her to go to the men's washroom, where he allegedly sexually assaulted her.The victim told her friends about the assault even as the accused reportedly called her, and asked if she “needed pills”, said the police.Later, the victim's friends encouraged her to report the incident, and filed a complaint on October 15.

# With first-ever public gymkhana in Fort, BMC to woo locals and tourists alike

GNS News Agency,Oct 30

Mumbai is home to several gymkhanas like the Bombay Gymkhana, Hindu Gymkhana, and Parsi Gymkhana. However, memberships to these public recreation clubs are reserved and come with very high fees, making them inaccessible to the average citizen.Now, the city is set to get its first-ever public gymkhana in the Fort area. This will be the first-ever gymkhana in the city that will be accessible for common citizens, unlike existing gymkhanas and clubs that allow access on the basis of exclusive membership.The gymkhana is being constructed by redeveloping an existing recreation facility The gymkhana is being constructed by redeveloping an existing recreation facility

The gymkhana is being constructed by redeveloping an existing recreation facility that was known as the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC's) Krida Bhavan, an exclusive indoor recreation facility for civic employees.The building will have a five-storey structure with a glass dome on the top. There will also be a viewing deck, which will provide a 180-degree view of the Fort and Azad Maidan area. Alongside this, the facility will also have a cafeteria and a community hall, along with parking facilities. Recreational facilities, like an indoor gymnasium and swimming pools, will also be set up. It will have indoor recreation facilities for citizens, civic officials said.The BMC is also planning to set up a museum inside one of the floors that will provide information about Mumbai's history as well as India's freedom movement.The building will have a five-



storey structure with a glass dome on the top. The building will have a five-storey structure with a glass dome on the top.The BMC has floated a Rs 33 crore tender for constructing the project. The authorities said that the project will be initiated as per the engineering, procurement and construction model, which means that a single contractor responsible for planning, construction, as well as maintenance of the plot will be appointed.“The objective of this plan is to provide citizens with a space they can visit and enjoy recreational activities. This facility will not cater to a specific section of people and will be open to everyone. Another primary purpose behind this plan is to engage with tourists in the Fort area. The facility will be located in a prime plot, so it is quite evident that people from various walks of life, including tourists, will visit it,” a civic official privy to the development said.

# As flood relief funds pour in, watchful Punjab farmers keep tabs

GNS News Agency,Oct 30

As the Punjab government begins disbursing flood relief funds, farmers in the state are closely monitoring compensation details, ensuring they align with the guidelines as per the Centre and state under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Meanwhile, the BJP has also started circulating messages in villages, publicising the Centre's share in the relief allocations.“In the 2023 floods, we got only ₹6,800 per acre as flood relief compensation. This was the Centre's share; the state provided nothing from its own pocket. However, this time, we know the allocations under different heads, so we are doing our homework to know who is giving what,” Iqbal Singh Mallah, the nambardar (headman) of Muthianwala village in Ferozepur, whose 65 acres of land were submerged, said.Parkash Singh, another farmer from Tendiwala village in Ferozepur, added, “We have studied the compensation under the Centre's heads and will now get to know what all is coming to us, how much share the state is adding from its own side, and who is providing how much. For example, the state has announced ₹20,000 per acre compensation for crop loss, in which the Centre's share will be ₹6,879 per acre. So in that case, the state will be contributing ₹13,121 per acre from its own pocket, but this is for 75-100 per cent crop loss.”Mallah said that the compensation details under SDRF norms are available and clearly mention the Centre's contribution. “We are aware of all these compensation heads, and let us see how we get the relief so that we can ascertain what is the state government's share and what is the Centre's. The application seeking compensation needs to be signed by the sarpanch, nambardar, or other prominent persons of the village, and many such applications have already been sent to the deputy commissioner offices in different districts of Punjab,” he added.What the SDRF norms sayAccording to the SDRF norms being circulated by local BJP leaders, the compensation structure includes: ₹4 lakh in case of death due to floods or other calamities; ₹16,000 per person for

injuries requiring hospitalisation for more than a week; and ₹5,400 per person for those admitted for less than a week.The SDRF also stipulates ₹74,000 for disability between 40-60 per cent and ₹2.5 lakh if disability exceeds 60 per cent; ₹2,500 per family for damage to clothes and utensils, each; ₹7,284 per acre for de-silting of fields and ₹6,879 per acre for crop loss.For loss of livestock, the SDRF specifies: ₹37,300 per cow/buffalo, ₹4,000 per sheep, pig, or goat, ₹32,000 per horse or bull, and ₹20,000 per calf, donkey, or mule.Confirming the BJP's campaign, Anil Sarin, state general secretary of the party, said, “Yes, local BJP leaders are circulating messages among villagers, informing them about various relief funds under different heads as laid out in SDRF norms, so that villagers can avail themselves of the maximum benefit.”Abohar-based farmer Sukhjinder Singh Rajan said, “We heard on Tuesday that farmers with orchards can get compensation under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture scheme, but we are yet to seek clarity on this from our deputy commissioner's office, as so far orchards are not under the compensation scheme for flood relief.”Surinder Kumar's house was damaged in the floods. The Sabuana village resident in Fazilka district says people can get ₹1.2 lakh under the PM Awaz Yojana if their houses are damaged in floods, and an additional ₹40,000 for toilets if they qualify under that category as well.“This information was provided by Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan during his recent Punjab visit. He claimed that over 38,000 houses have been approved by the Centre, and villagers are waiting for the disbursement of funds under this head,” he added.Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has already started disbursing flood relief from Ajnala, with other ministers handing over cheques in districts such as Patiala and Sangrur. The move comes even as farmers' unions Samyukta Kisan Morcha and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha rejected the 20,000 per acre compensation announced and demanded 1 lakh per acre and 70,000 per acre, respectively, for flood-affected farmers.



# Madagascar coup leader Randrianirina sworn in as president



ANTANANARIVO, GNS News Agency,Oct 30- Madagascar's coup leader Colonel Michael Randrianirina was sworn in as president on Friday to cheers, blaring trumpets and raised swords, days after taking control of the island nation in the wake of youth-led protests that forced out his predecessor.

Ex-leader Andry Rajoelina, whom lawmakers impeached after he fled abroad at the weekend, has condemned the takeover and refused to step down while in exile, despite widespread defections in the security forces and the High Constitutional Court ratifying the army takeover within hours of it happening. The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here. The African Union and the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres have condemned the coup, which came after weeks of "Gen Z" protests initially triggered by severe, chronic power and water shortages. "I will fully, completely, and justly fulfil the high responsibilities of my position as President of the Republic of Madagascar," Randrianirina said in a ceremony at the High Constitutional Court, a colonial-era red-brick building of French windows, segmental arches and stone balustrades.

"I swear that I will exercise the power entrusted to me and dedicate all my strength to defending and strengthening national unity and human rights," he added, before military officers raised swords and blew trumpets to mark the handover. While many of the youths cheered the demise of Rajoelina, who came to office in a 2009 coup, some are already expressing misgivings about the swiftness with which the army stepped in to fill the power vacuum. Even Gen Z protesters who turned up to celebrate the new mili-

tary leader's inauguration did not consider their work done. Item 1 of 7 Madagascar's new military ruler, Colonel Michael Randrianirina, speaks after being sworn in as president on Friday taking over from Andry Rajoelina following a coup that ousted him, at the constitutional court in Antanariv , Madagascar, RS/Siphiwe Sibeko]Madagascar's new military ruler, Colonel Michael Randrianirina, speaks after being sworn in as president on Friday taking over from Andry Rajoelina following a coup that ousted him, at the constitutional court in Antanariv , Madagascar, /Siphiwe Sibeko Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab "Not yet," 18-year-old student Mioty Andrianambintsoa said outside the court, as dignitaries draped in the red, green and white of the Malagasy flag walked past her to waiting jeeps. "This is a stage. Our aims haven't been achieved." Asked what those aims were, fellow protester Francko Ramananvarivo, 23, said: "Our objective is to be led by a government that is close to the people. We are not there yet." Randrianirina has said that a committee led by the military will rule for up to two years alongside a transitional government before organising new elections.

Randrianirina is a commander in the elite CAPSAT army unit that played a role in the 2009 coup that brought Rajoelina to power, although he was not involved in that putsch himself. He broke ranks with the president during the protests, urging soldiers not to fire on protesters and offering to protect them. Underlying Madagascar's periodic upheavals is a young population - the average age is under 20 - and some of the world's worst poverty, which blights the lives of three-quarters of its roughly 30 million people. Despite exports of prized commodities such as vanilla, nickel, sapphires and the white pigment ilmenite, the Indian Ocean island's average income is barely \$600 a year, while prices of basic goods such as the staple rice have spiralled. Between its independence in 1960 and 2020, GDP per capita plunged by nearly half, according to the World Bank, making it one of the few nations to have become worse off over that period. Tim Cocks has reported from all over Africa for Reuters for the past two decades (aside from a stint covering the Iraq war in 2008/9). In his current role, he covers politics, climate change, diplomacy and human interest. Previously he was bureau chief for West & Central Africa. A story on the environmental disaster of Ghana's artisanal gold mining won him a SABEW award for best feature in 2019. He is also the author of 'Lagos: Supernatural City', an intimate portrait of the life in Africa's biggest metropolis.

# UN WFP says 560 tonnes of food entering Gaza daily but not yet reaching famine-hit north

GENEVA, -GNS News Agency,Oct 30 The U.N. said on Friday 560 tonnes of food had entered Gaza per day on average since a ceasefire took effect but convoys were struggling to reach famine-struck Gaza city due to war-damaged roads and continued closures of key northern aid routes. With famine conditions in parts of Gaza, U.N. humanitarian affairs chief Tom Fletcher said on Wednesday thousands of aid vehicles would have to enter weekly to tackle a crisis marked by malnutrition, homelessness and a collapse of infrastructure. The Reuters Gulf Currents newsletter brings you the latest on geopolitics, energy and finance in the region. Sign up here.

"We're still below what we need, but we're getting there... The ceasefire has opened a narrow window of opportunity, and WFP is moving very quickly and swiftly to scale up food assistance," U.N. World Food Programme spokesperson Abeer Etefa told reporters in Geneva. The WFP said it had not begun distributions in Gaza City, pointing to the continued closure of two border crossings, Zikim and Erez, with Israel in the north of the enclave where the humanitarian debacle is most acute.

"Access to Gaza City and northern Gaza is extremely challenging," Etefa said, saying the movement of convoys of wheat flour and ready-to-eat food parcels from the south of the territory was being hampered by broken or blocked roads. "It is very important to have these openings in the north, this is where the famine took hold. To turn the tide on this famine..., it is very important to get these openings." "Though small amounts of nutrition products have reached the north - the area of heaviest and most devastat-



ing war between Israel and Hamas - relief convoys were still unable to move significant quantities of food there." We've had 57 trucks yesterday (into southern and central Gaza). We consider this a breakthrough, but we're not yet at the level of around 80-100 trucks a day," Etefa said. Around 950 trucks passed into Gaza on Thursday via the Kerem Shalom and Kissufim crossings with Israel, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said, citing figures from COGAT, Israel's military aid agency, given to mediators. That followed around 715 trucks that rolled into Gaza on Wednesday, including 16 bearing fuel and gas, OCHA said. UN Women, a U.N. agency that delivers programmes and promotes standards for women's rights, said there was an "overwhelming need" in Gaza for food, medicine and protection particularly for women. "The ceasefire may have stopped the fighting, but it has not ended the crisis. Over 1 million women and girls require food aid and nearly a quarter million need urgent nutritional support," the agency's Sofia Calltorp said.

# Polish court rules against sending Ukrainian Nord Stream suspect to Germany



WARSAW, GNS News Agency,Oct 30 A Polish court on Friday ruled against handing over a Ukrainian suspect wanted by Germany in connection with the 2022 Nord Stream gas pipeline explosions, a decision that will please the government in Warsaw which had opposed his transfer. Although Warsaw had said the decision over whether Volodymyr Z. should be transferred to Germany was one for the courts alone, Prime Minister Donald Tusk said earlier this month that handing Volodymyr Z. over was not in Poland's interest.

The Reuters Power Up newsletter provides everything you need to know about the global energy industry. Sign up here. Tusk said the problem was not that the undersea pipelines, which run from Russia to Germany, were blown up in September 2022, but that they were built at all. The explosions largely severed Russian gas supplies to Europe, marking a major escalation in the Ukraine conflict and squeezing energy supplies. Germany's top prosecutors' office says Volodymyr Z. was one of a group suspected of renting a sailing yacht and planting explosives on the pipelines near the Danish island of Bornholm. He faces allegations of conspiring to commit an explosives attack and of "anti-constitutional sabotage". His Polish lawyer rejects the accusations and says Volodymyr Z. has done nothing

wrong. He has also questioned whether a case concerning the destruction of Russian property by a Ukrainian at a time when the countries are at war is a criminal matter. Reporting by Marek Strzelecki, Anna Koper and Barbara Erling in Warsaw, Sarah Marsh and Andreas Rinke in Berlin, Emilio Parodi in Milan, writing by Alan Charlish, editing by Alexander Smith, Susan Fenton

# Gnana Dattu, Bhavya hog limelight in BWF World Junior Championships

Hyderabad: Gnana Dattu TT and mixed doubles combination of Bhavya Chhabra and Vishakha Toppo upset their much higher-ranked opponents, while girls' singles duo of Tanvi Sharma and Unnati Hooda and boys' doubles combination of Bhargav Arigela and Viswa Tej Gobburu registered contrasting wins to reach the quarterfinals of the BWF World Junior Championships 2025 at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati on Thursday. Gnana Dattu of Telangana, playing in his first world juniors, defeated 8th seed Garret Tan of USA 15-12, 15-13 in boys' singles, while Bhavya and Vishakha fought back after losing the opening game to beat third seeded French combination of Thibault Gardon and Agathe Cuevas 12-15, 15-11, 15-12 to reach the quarterfinals. In boys' doubles, sixth seeds Bhargav and Viswa kept their nerves after losing the opening game to get the better of Yi Hsuan Chen and Chun-Yen Chu of Chinese Taipei 13-15, 15-9, 15-13 in 42 minutes to set up a quarter-final clash against Asian Junior champions Chen Jun Ting and Liu Jun Rong. Girls' singles top seed Tanvi dominated China's Sun Li Yuan for a 15-8, 15-5 win while eighth seed Unnati recovered from a bad start to beat Carine Tee of Malaysia 15-10, 15-7. In the quarterfinals,

# Hungary to ensure Putin can enter country for Trump meeting in Budapest



BUDAPEST, GNS News Agency, Oct 30 - Hungary will ensure that Russian President Vladimir Putin can enter the country for a summit with U.S. President Donald Trump planned in Budapest and return home afterwards, Hungary's Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto said on Friday. Trump agreed on Thursday to a second summit on the war in Ukraine to be hosted in the Hungarian capital, saying it may happen in the next two weeks. Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán spoke with Trump on Thursday and talked to Putin on Friday, saying preparations "are going full steam ahead".

The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here. The choice of Budapest has raised attention. Putin faces an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court, which Hungary is in the process of leaving. Moscow denies the ICC allegations, calling the warrant evidence of the West's hostility to Russia. HUNGARY CALLS ON EUROPE TO OPEN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS "We will ensure that he enters Hungary, has successful negotiations here, and then returns

# Nicaraguan exiles try to outrun long arm of Ortega



SAN JOSE/MEXICO CITY, GNS News Agency, Oct 30- One night last November, four carloads of armed Nicaraguan police pulled opposition figure Henry Briceno and his family out of their home and deposited them at a checkpoint on the border with Costa Rica. Seven months after the Bricenos were expelled to Costa Rica, the family was packing its bags again. The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here.

Unknown men, travelling by motorcycle or in unmarked cars, had been following Briceno. And Briceno started to fear that he could be the latest Nicaraguan political exile to be killed in Costa Rica, he said in an interview with Reuters. The Nicaraguan opposition figure, Roberto Samcam, had told fellow Nicaraguan exiles and Costa Rican police the same thing was happening to him in the days before he was shot dead inside his house in San Jose on June 19. It was the third killing of a Nicaraguan political exile in Costa Rica since 2023. Eleven days later, Briceno, 75, his wife and two children fled to Europe - despite being granted political asylum in Costa Rica - to escape what dissidents say is the increasingly long arm of President Daniel Ortega's crackdown on political opposition.

"Having to start all over again after only seven months (in Costa Rica) was difficult," Briceno said. "But it was necessary ... We thought it was only a matter of time before we got killed." Briceno did not identify the country, saying he feared for his safety. At least 50 Nicaraguan families have fled Costa Rica for Europe and North America since August last year - and two dozen more Nicaraguan exiles and their families are planning to leave, according to Reuters interviews with 19 Nicaraguan exiles who have sought refuge in the country. The scale of the flight of Nicaraguan exiles from Costa Rica has not been previously reported. How asylum applications from Nicaraguans in Costa Rica, the country with the largest diaspora, have changed in recent years.

The country was once renowned for its low crime rates and political stability. More than 200,000 Nicaraguans sought asylum in Costa Rica between 2018 and 2024, with another 15,000 granted refugee status. The exiles Reuters spoke to described an expanding crackdown by the Ortega government that has left them fearful of reprisal even after they fled the region. A dozen exiles told Reuters they had received identical threats by text and cell phone saying: "get off social media, stop attacking (the government) ... or face the consequences." Nicaraguan Co-President Rosario Murillo, who is Ortega's wife and serves as the spokeswoman for the Nicaraguan presidency, did not respond to questions about the killings. The Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose also did not respond to requests for comment. Costa Rican Public Security Minister Mario Zamora told Reuters that Nicaraguan exiles "facing risks to their life" could ask the courts for additional security.

None of the Nicaraguan exiles Reuters spoke to had requested protection. Zamora did not respond to questions about specific killings. Costa Rica's Public Prosecutor Office said it could not provide details on whether any Nicaraguan exiles had requested government protection, as it was "confidential information." Four suspects, all Costa Ricans, are in custody charged with Samcam's killing, but the head of Costa Rica's judicial investigation body, Randall Zuniga, said last month that the crime's "mastermind" remained at large., opens new tab He said the authorities were investigating whether the killings were "a case of political incursion by another government." The U.N. Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua said in a report last month that the possibility that Managua orchestrated the killings of Samcam and other Nicaraguan exiles "cannot be excluded until comprehensive and independent inquiries are completed." The report said Managua surveils exiled opposition figures to "silence dissenting voices wherever they are found."

DEEPENING REPRESSION Human rights groups

home," Szijarto told a press briefing.

"There is no need for any kind of consultation with anyone, we are a sovereign country here. We will receive (Putin) with respect, host him, and provide the conditions for him to negotiate with the American president." Orbán, a long-time Trump ally who has also kept close ties with Russia, said the meeting could take place within the next two weeks if the U.S. and Russian foreign ministers manage to settle remaining issues at a planned meeting next week. Szijarto said a date could be discussed after those meetings. Orbán, speaking earlier on state radio, said the meeting "will be about peace" and if there is a peace deal, that would lead to a new phase of economic development in Hungary and Europe. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is due to visit the White House on Friday to push for more military support, including U.S.-made long-range Tomahawk missiles, as the war escalates. Orbán said on Friday Europe should open its own diplomatic channels towards Russia and he again accused the EU of taking what he called a "pro-war stance" over Ukraine. TENSE RELATIONS WITH UKRAINE

The veteran Hungarian premier has often clashed with other EU leaders over Ukraine, questioning whether the bloc should send military aid to Kyiv. Ukraine's relationship with Hungary has grown increasingly tense. Zelenskyy accused Hungarian drones of crossing into Ukraine last month, prompting Orbán to retort that Ukraine was not an independent sovereign state. Hungary has also remained reliant on Russian gas and crude oil deliveries even as the EU seeks to phase out those supplies by 2028 and Trump has urged the bloc to end Russian energy imports. Reporting by Krisztina Than and Anita Komuves Writing by Jason Hovet Editing by Christopher Cushing, Gareth Jones and Aidan Lewis

say Ortega has grown increasingly authoritarian since massive anti-government protests in 2018, consolidating presidential control and silencing his critics through violence, imprisonment and exile. Over the last few years, activists have accused Ortega's government of ratcheting up the repression by tracking down and killing opponents in exile. At least four exiled Nicaraguan opposition figures - including Samcam, a Sandinista major turned dissident - have been killed in Central America since 2022, according to human rights groups. Three more Nicaraguans living in Costa Rica told Reuters that they had been shot at by men riding motorcycles. Another exiled Nicaraguan interviewed by Reuters said he was severely beaten. The attacks come as Costa Rica wrestles with a surge in homicides as drug cartels fight for new trafficking routes. Many of the Nicaraguan exiles fleeing Costa Rica described having limited options.

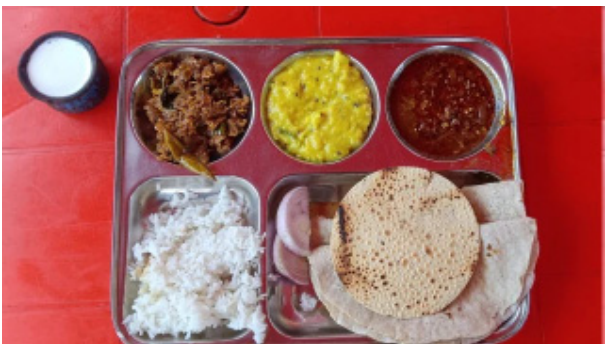
The United States, under President Donald Trump, has tightened asylum pathways and stripped thousands of Nicaraguans living in the U.S. of protection from deportation. Other Central American nations are wracked by insecurity. For many, Spain has emerged as the preferred destination, due to the shared language, the relative ease of the asylum process, and the distance from Nicaragua. But even those who have fled to Europe said they were afraid of revealing their location. How asylum applications from Nicaraguans in Spain have changed in recent years. "ABSOLUTE LACK OF SAFETY" In 2018, human rights activist Alvaro Leiva fled Ortega's crackdown on anti-government protesters, settling in Costa Rica. A year later, he said, he began receiving death threats on his cellphone from men with Nicaraguan accents. Strange cars and motorcycles stalked him at home and at work. Fellow Nicaraguan exiles told him that they saw some of these motorcycles depart from the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose. Leiva began to suspect that Nicaragua had sent assassins to Costa Rica with the aim of tracking down and killing off its opponents, and that these operatives were based at the embassy, posing as diplomatic staff. Leiva said he sent nearly a dozen letters to Costa Rica's political leaders and security officials over the next five years, detailing the threats. Costa Rica security chief Zamora said he was unfamiliar with the situation, when asked by Reuters. In his final letter in Nov. 2024, addressed to Costa Rican President Rodrigo Chaves, Leiva renounced his political asylum because of the "absolute lack of safety for myself and my life." "The tyrants have unrestricted capacity for repression, both within Nicaragua and abroad," he said in a WhatsApp message. He did not disclose his location, saying he feared he was still within Managua's reach.

# Trump shows signs he might not be ready to send Kyiv Tomahawk missiles

Washington: President Donald Trump is set to host Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for talks at the White House on Friday, with the US leader signalling he's not ready to agree to sell Kyiv a long-range missile system that the Ukrainians say they desperately need. Zelenskyy gets his one-on-one with Trump a day after the US president and Russian President Vladimir Putin held a lengthy phone call to discuss the conflict. In recent days, Trump had shown openness to selling Ukraine long-range Tomahawk cruise missiles, even as Putin warned that such a move would further strain the US-Russian relationship. But following Thursday's call with Putin, Trump appeared to downplay the prospects of Ukraine getting the missiles, which have a range of about 1,600 km. "We need Tomahawks for the United States of America too," Trump said. "We have a lot of them, but we need them. I mean we can't deplete our country." Zelenskyy had been seeking the weapons that would allow Ukrainian forces to strike deep into Russian territory and target key military sites, energy facilities and critical infrastructure. Zelenskyy has argued such strikes would help compel Putin to take Trump's calls for direct negotiations to end the war more seriously. But Putin warned Trump during the call that supplying Kyiv with the Tomahawks "won't change the situation on the battlefield, but would cause substantial damage to the relationship between our countries," according to Yuri Ushakov, Putin's foreign policy adviser. It will be the fourth face-to-face meeting for Trump and Zelenskyy since the Republican returned to office in January, and their second in less than a month. Trump announced following Thursday's call with Putin that he would soon meet with the Russian leader in Budapest, Hungary, to discuss ways to end the war.



# From the food of soldiers to the taste of Pune, why ‘pithla-bhakri’ atop the iconic Sinhagad fort is an unmissable experience



After the mist clears and the sun reaches the fort walls, Sinhagad is filled with the aroma of garlic, chillies, and besan. At the top, small eateries come alive, with bhakris (a kind of bread) puffing on tavas, pithla bubbling, and the hiss of oil mingling with the sound of laughter. Plates clatter, butter-milk froths, and the fort hums with the flavours. Once, these hills had echoed with the clash of swords when Tanaji Malusare, the military commander of the erstwhile Maratha kingdom, fought bravely to win the fort for Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Centuries later, it continues to be the most popular spot in Pune, where hundreds come to feel the valour and savour the spirit of traditional Maharashtrian dishes from the eateries. At Sinhagad, pithla-bhakri isn't just a meal, it is its soul. Every morning, women climb its slopes, carrying baskets of flour, curd, and vegetables on their heads to feed people with love and turn the fort's legacy of strength into one of nourishment and warmth.

sinhagad fort Laughter, chatter, and the clatter of steel plates. Each bite of pithla bhakri carries the fort's warmth, its history, and the love of those who make it. (Express Photo) "So many people come here just to have food, pithla-bhakri, matki usal, bharit, thecha, they love it all," says Vandana Shinde, who has been cooking at the fort for over 25 years. "Earlier, we made everything on wood fires. Now we use stoves, but the love and taste remain the same." The

thali that arrives at your table is a mound of golden pithla, soft yet spicy, sitting beside a perfectly charred bhakri. A smoky vangyache bharit — mashed brinjal tempered with onion and spices — and at its side lies a handful of zanzanit matki usal; along with it, you are served a fiery red thecha that demands courage, and a bowl of cool, thick curd to balance it all. If you're lucky, a glass of Maharashtrian butter-milk called tak follows — light, salty, and perfect after the climb.

"Sinhagad Pithla Bhakri", the term itself comprises everything, the love that these people put in their food, it is so simple and authentic, I think that is what makes it so special. We come here for our daughter, she loves the food here," says Archana Navathe, who's been visiting for 34 years. Her daughter Yadnyee, visiting from Italy, laughs, "If I could, I would eat this food every day. So much love, and on top of that, the dahi and tak! I make it a point to have at least three to four matkifuls of dahi sakhar." And when you just want a quick bite, the hot and fresh bhajis with onion and potato, dipped in gram flour batter and fried golden, will be ready in an instant. "The bhajis here are a delight, crispy, flavourful, and best enjoyed with the view and friends," says Nandakishore Parikh, a regular visitor from Rajasthan. The dish itself tells the story of endurance. Pithla-bhakri was once a soldier's food, quick to cook, rich in protein, made from simple ingredients that lasted through long campaigns. "It reminds me of the time when our Mavalas, Shivaji Maharaj's soldiers, survived on this same meal," says Nilesh Bhosale, a Pune businessman. "It's simple but full of strength." Every serving here carries a history of its own. "My mother used to serve food straight on the hand, a hot bhakri with pithla on top," recalls Ganga Waghmare, whose family has fed visitors for four decades. "Even at midnight, trekkers would come hungry, and we'd serve them by the fire." The fort stands as a monument to courage, its strength now lying in the hands of the ones who cook, serve, and feed. At Sinhagad, history is not just remembered; it's eaten, shared, and savoured, one plate of pithla bhakri at a time.

# The women who fought their way into the Afghan Embassy



The team of the visiting Taliban Foreign Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, which used the premises to hold a press conference, did not think it necessary to invite a single woman. The Ministry of External Affairs did not think it was necessary either. Earlier that day, Mr. Muttaqi was hosted at the grand official venue, Hyderabad House, without a woman, official or otherwise, in sight. Whether this was mandated by the Taliban leader, a former Minister of Education for a regime that doesn't allow girls in school beyond Class 6; or a genuine oversight; or a "technical error", as he termed it, it wasn't allowed to pass.

Reportage of the 'men only' press meet, followed by public outrage, forced the government to distance itself from the event and the Taliban delegation to rethink. Two days later, I received a call, inviting me to another press conference. Everyone was invited, with no conditions laid on attire, as they may have been in Kabul. Inside the briefing hall, male journalists, who had attended the previous press conference, had cleared the front row for female journalists, to ensure that Mr. Muttaqi would have no choice but to see them and take their questions. "This is your day," said one of my male colleagues. "We will not be asking any questions, so as to ensure you will all be able to." I smiled, protesting that we should behave as we normally do, sitting together without any gender distinction, and compete for the official's attention, but I was also touched by the

gesture. That day, as Mr. Muttaqi faced a fusillade of questions about the Taliban's denial of basic rights to women in the country, the solidarity of journalists against the prior injustice, however small, sent a powerful message: women cannot and should not be left out of the room.

The truth is, most journalists see their profession as gender-neutral, although there are circumstances and countries where they face different impediments to doing their jobs. In the heat of a conflict, or a riot, or even during a raucous election rally, women will often find that they are not assigned the "tough" stories; discouraged from the frontlines and trenches in a war; or face sexual harassment in the newsroom or in the field. During the protests in the capital against the brutal rape of "Nirbhaya" in 2012, I remember young female colleagues returning ashen-faced from India Gate with horrifying stories of being manhandled or groped by the protesters themselves. On assignment in wars,

I have often been told, "this is no place for women", or been asked to stay back. These are all battles women face in every field, not just in journalism, and learn to fight them. I will also admit that women journalists are sometimes treated more politely and with more consideration than their male counterparts. I once fought my way onto an Indian warship going on an evacuation mission. As the only woman onboard, I got my own cabin, while five colleagues were cramped into one room on hard bunks. Let us be clear, though: the fight that day in the briefing hall of the Afghanistan Embassy was not primarily for gender justice or equality, but for media access. It is a fight that journalists wage on a daily basis, and increasingly in democracies such as India and the U.S., where leaders shy away from press conferences, or restrict the media that can attend or the questions they can ask. That battle for access may have been won on that day, in that hall, but the fight continues. Sadly, the much larger, and in some ways, more vital battle for millions of Afghan women to go to school, college, or work, and even gyms and public parks has not even begun to be fought.

# Growing up with Kali in Kolkata

While the rest of India celebrates Diwali, West Bengal worships Kali. Yes, Durga Puja — the 10-day festival that precedes Kali Puja by a few weeks — has UNESCO's intangible heritage status; it gets international attention; it is bigger, glitzier and grander than any other festival in Kolkata. But this is the goddess Kali's stomping ground. English historian H.E.A. Cotton wrote "Kali, the patron saint of the city, is at Kalighat." Kali has the city's heart. In fact, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who lives a stone's throw from the Kalighat temple, is a renowned devotee of the goddess.

Kali is the goddess of deserted areas. She is worshipped in the dead of night. She appears naked and unashamed, unconcerned about what she is wearing. She fits no definition of a "good girl". And that is why, at a time when Kolkata is gearing up for Kali Puja, the Chief Minister's comments following the rape of a medical student in the State are especially galling. "How did she come out [of the hostel] at 12:30 a.m.?" Banerjee said, according to media reports. She said while it was everyone's right to go out, "when and wherever they want to", she cautioned private institutions like medical colleges to be careful. "Especially when it's a girl child, they should not be allowed to go out at night."

Her remarks have ignited a political firestorm. The opposition has accused her of victim blaming. Sadly, almost no political party can claim moral high ground when it comes to blaming the victim of assault. Good girls don't stay out that late. Good girls don't dress like that. Good girls don't go around alone in deserted areas. We have heard that refrain over and over again. When journalist Soumya Viswanathan was murdered in Delhi in 2008, then chief minister Sheila Dikshit said, "All by herself till 3 a.m. at night... you should not be so adventurous." After a rape case in Gurugram in 2012, the city bosses said women should not work after 8 p.m. If they had to, they needed to tell the labour department in advance.

At one time, Kali embarrassed me. I was then living and working in California, where Diwali usually meant good desi food and a few sparklers in the backyard at some In-



dian friend's house party. When culturally conscious American friends would wish me Happy Diwali, I wanted to tell them that I had really grown up with Kali Puja, not Diwali, in Kolkata. Our local Kali Puja pandal came up every year outside our bedroom window. One year, an errant firework set it ablaze and I remember the flames leaving our house blackened and sooty. Next day, the goddess stood exposed amidst the charred remains of the pandal. She didn't look too out of place. This, after all, is a goddess who is as much at home in a crematorium as she is in the house of a devotee. But Kali, blue or black, naked and fierce, tongue dripping blood, is much harder to explain to westerners than the more motherly Durga, a far more conventional deity. So, I would just smile and nod when people wished me Happy Diwali. Today, in Kolkata, I see Kali being slowly domesticated in our bhadralok neighbourhoods. She is often not naked anymore. She wears a white sari with a red border. White shola (pith) jewellery covers her nakedness. She is becoming more family-friendly. And it is true, Kali is also a mother goddess. She has a whole genre of songs dedicated to her, Shyamasangeet, that imagines her as the mother who is as dark as the night. It's a rare adoration in India of something that's not "fair and lovely". But Kali is a different kind of mother figure than Durga who arrives with her family in tow. Kali, kinetic and ecstatic, is awe-inspiring in the ferocity of her love.

# How the pre-primary education system reinforces inequality from the start



Are we orienting our students towards accepting different standards of living that an unequal society imposes on them? Does pre-primary schooling teach children from rural and deprived classes to set their aspirations according to their present conditions? A household is forced to make the first school choice of their children. Discrimination starts at this level and sets a potentially inequitable trajectory for the entire life of the child. The 2025 Comprehensive Modular Survey: Education (NSS 80th Round) by the National Statistical Office (MoSPI) reveals deep-rooted disparities driven by type of schools, geography and household income.

At 10.4%, pre-primary has the lowest enrollment compared to other levels. Students in primary education constitute 41.6%. Pre-primary is not a substantial proportion when compared to the total enrolled students in school education. The UNESCO, the UNICEF, and the National Education Policy 2020 all agree that pre-primary orients children to the schooling process, improves school readiness, and thereby reduces chances of dropout. Yet, pre-primary remains the lowest proportion of the student population of the school system.

Is there any gender discrimination at this level? Data from the Comprehensive Modular Survey says there is not much difference in terms of gender distribution with pre-primary students comprising 10.3% of all enrolled males and 10.6% of all enrolled females. A deeper look, however, exposes the emergence of rural vs urban as a new discriminator for these young learners. Nearly two-thirds (65.6%) of pre-primary children in rural areas are enrolled in government institutions. Conversely, 62.9% students enrolled in urban sectors have enrolled in private unaided schools. The reasons could be willingness to spend more money, size of family (with grandparents to look after children at home), occupied parents, and, of course, most importantly a trust deficit among urban households about the quality of pre-primary education offered by government schools. The surging enrollment in private schools in urban sectors indicates de-facto privatization of foundational education in urban India. This rising privatisation in pre-primary education raises questions of equitable access to education at the early stages of learning.

Parents in urban sectors would be willing to spend more money for buying better quality pre-primary educa-

tion for their children. But the financial burden of pre-primary education on parents from the rural and urban sectors lays the foundations for two different expenditure patterns. Urban parents take up more financial responsibility, compared to their rural counterpart. The difference in the expenditure gap between rural and urban households is substantial. In rural sector, the average expenditure for educating a pre-primary student is ₹6,059. The average expenditure per student in urban areas is ₹18,943. Urban families spend over three times more than their rural counterparts. One could attribute this to higher costs in urban areas. That is justifiable too, because there is difference in the expenditure for pre-primary education in government schools in rural and urban sectors. For pre-primary education in rural government schools, a household has to spend ₹557 in an year while it is ₹1,094 in urban areas. The difference is almost double. The difference in the expenditure between rural government school and private un-aided school is enormous though. For a rural family, the choice of a private unaided school comes at an average cost of ₹17,986. This means a rural family has to spend more than 32 times the expenditure required for a government institution. Comparing ₹557 and ₹17,986 shows that the natural choice of a rural household is a government school.

In addition the survey has reported that urban parents spend ₹783 per student for private coaching and tuition at pre-primary level. Is this expenditure gap, among sectors, justifiable in terms of quality of education? The expenditure gaps between government schools in rural and urban schools, between government schools in rural and urban, between government schools in rural and private schools in urban are alarming. But more serious is the systematic consent-making regarding this structural inequity as neutral and natural, through this differential pricing of pre-primary education. Sabotaging the idea of equity How does a nation attain its dream of equity in education when there is a deep divide between households falling into various sectors? The survey indicates that the idea of equity in education is sabotaged at the very foundational level of pre-primary stage. Households that can afford to buy more expensive education at pre-primary level upends any attempt to create a level playing field when children begin their education. Parents who understand this huge expenditure gap between rural/urban sectors and government/private sectors orient themselves towards a thinking that the variable pricing in education as natural. It sets them up to accepting structural inequalities that will plague their children's education in future. Students are systemically accustomed to educational "goods and services" that fit their standards in government schools and accept, in future, the differences between theirs and their private school counterparts as genuine and natural. This also orients them to accepting any such unequal treatments in their future, not just in school days, but in adult life as well, as natural and non-political. Hence, the deep sectoral divide exposed by the "Comprehensive Modular Survey: Education" (NSS 80th Round) is a serious indicator of perpetuating inequality with the consent of the socially and economically disadvantaged. Pre-primary is foundational. But, foundation for what? Normalising inequity or better education? The pre-primary schooling system needs to be redesigned from being institutions that manufacture consent to ones that present a level playing field to all children. This will create the foundation of equity in the education system.

# Is landlockedness the reason for Bihar's underdevelopment?



It is election season in Bihar. While the Opposition often speaks about the lack of development and industrialisation in the State, in its campaigns, the National Democratic Alliance, which is in power, argues that a change of government will bring back the 'Jungle Raj' of the earlier decade. What makes Bihar one of India's most underdeveloped States? Is landlockedness a reason for its underdevelopment, as some argue? R. Nagaraj and Manindra Nath Thakur discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Saptaparno Ghosh. Edited excerpts: It is often argued that Bihar is disadvantaged because it is a landlocked State. Punjab and Telangana are landlocked as well, and they are doing relatively well. So how is being landlocked a constraint for Bihar?

R. Nagaraj: If you look at the success of Telangana, especially Hyderabad, it is mostly because of the tertiary sector; it has nothing to do with geography. If a State has an educated workforce and good infrastructure, being landlocked will not be an issue. Punjab, too, has a developed network of railways and roads, and has FCI (Food Corporation of India) godowns across the country to help with export of crops. Manindra Nath Thakur: Let us look at Bihar's prominent exports: makhana, litchi, and corn. It has been difficult for Bihar to transport these items from Patna to West Bengal or to any port. These, alongside the vegetables Bihar exports, are perishable. Moreover, significant costs are incurred due to road transport; time and distance are crucial factors in agrarian exports. One way Bihar is attempting to resolve this issue is by launching projects along the Ganga. So, it is not that concerns about being landlocked are not genuine, but they cannot be cited as a major reason for the State's economic backwardness. Prof. Nagaraj spoke of the tertiary sector; you spoke of agrarian exports. Bihar has been assessed as an agrarian economy. What should be its imperative going forward: industrialisation or agriculture?

Manindra Nath Thakur: In the last 10 years, the Chief Minister has tried to engage with industrialists. However, industrialists have often raised concerns about access to ports, citing the need to spend more on transportation. Having said that, I do think that in this modern capitalist system, no society can think of surviving with just agricultural products. While Bihar should capitalise on its potential in terms of agricultural production and processing, it must ultimately transition to industry. Without that, there is no future. R. Nagaraj: Before we think of high-technology and/or manufacturing industries, we should consider where the comparative advantage lies. Four-fifth of Bihar's labour force is in agriculture. But despite Bihar having fertile land and irrigation facilities, agricultural productivity is mostly less than

the national average. Why is agriculture not picking up? That is the big question. In the 1970s or 80s, a committee set up under the agricultural economist, S.R. Sen, was figuring out how to take the Green Revolution to the Indo-Gangetic belt. It came up with a plan for massive State investments in infrastructure and electrification to ensure that States have abundant water for the cultivation of wheat and rice. Surprisingly, the Green Revolution spread to the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh rather than the Indo-Gangetic belt. We must understand what went wrong. I think it will be both in Bihar's interest and the national interest to get basic wheat, rice, and sugarcane cultivation going. This way, western India will be burdened less; it can conserve more water and move to value-added crops. Manindra Nath Thakur: On the agrarian front, I don't think Bihar should repeat the mistake that Punjab made during the Green Revolution, which produced a water crisis. Although Bihar has abundant water, it may face the same consequences as Punjab if water is overused. Moreover, increasing agricultural production is linked with the heavy use of fertilizers and pesticides, creating a health crisis. Therefore, I don't support the shifting of agriculture to eastern India. Agriculture is not profitable anywhere in the world unless it is heavily supported by the State. R. Nagaraj: Madhya Pradesh was also seen as a backward State. It does not have the same water resources as Bihar, yet the Green Revolution expanded there. Prosperity in the Malwa region is amazing. Therefore, I am sceptical about the idea that agriculture has no potential.

So what do you think are the factors that contributed to Bihar's underdevelopment?

Manindra Nath Thakur: Apart from what I have said, there are also notions that the Centre is not interested in Bihar's growth. The State, I think, is frozen in its transition from feudalism to capitalism. One of the reasons for this is the internal colonisation of the State. Earlier, Bihar supplied raw materials, but due to policies such as freight equalisation, it suffered significantly, and industries didn't develop locally, despite having the advantage of raw material availability. Bihar ultimately lost revenues and its natural advantage. Now, with a supply of labour from Bihar, nobody is interested in developing the State. R. Nagaraj: A commodity where freight equalisation was done and which benefited eastern India was cement. Steel did not accrue the same advantage. Cement has heavy transport costs compared to steel so the freight equalisation policy for it helped eastern India. Furthermore, why Biharis are leaving Bihar has no element of capitalist conspiracy. In fact, when investments in agriculture were made in Bihar, migration to Punjab declined. It is clear that if people have more options at home, they will not move out. Literature often suggests that Bihar has a 'socialist hangover', and that entrepreneurship does not draw confidence. R. Nagaraj: The socialist ideology in Bihar is often equated with caste politics and caste in general — basically, distributing limited resources across various castes. If the focus shifts to productive investment, it will do a lot of good for Bihar. Policy must focus on how to augment production rather than looking at redistributing the limited resources more equitably or in a manner that helps people stay in power. Manindra Nath Thakur: Bihar has never really followed the socialist model. It also failed to understand the logic behind India's shift to capitalism.



# How does plastic pollution affect health? | Explained



The story so far: Around 180 countries have failed to find consensus on an internationally binding legal agreement that sought to restrict plastic pollution. Talks in Geneva remained deadlocked on the issue late this week. While there is already a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-backed resolution on the need for such a move, only a binding agreement will actually force countries to take concrete action. However, countries are divided on several questions: should they address plastic waste alone or include plastic production?; should developing countries be funded by developed countries for the purpose? The key point of contention is the role of plastics in health.

What are the challenges from plastic?

No material symbolises the global, industrialised, consumption-based economy like plastic. The chemical constituents of plastics are polymers, and they can be natural — like cellulose, lignin, and are the basis of nearly everything in nature — or made in labs. Polymers derived from fossil fuel and then shaped into objects are in general called “plastic.” As a derivative of crude oil, it has the ability to be moulded into a nearly infinite variety of objects, from critical things, including aircraft and medical equipment, to cosmetic items such as tinsel, baubles and packaging. Add to that its low cost of production relative to materials such as glass and aluminium. The ubiquity of plastics and the fact that it is cheap has led to it being the prime source of litter and a symbol of the collapse of waste management systems. However, plastic’s flexibility also implies its persistence. Plastics are mixtures of various types that include monomers, polymers, and chemical additives. There are more than 16,000 chemicals potentially used or present in plastic materials and products. There is little or no information about the potential impact on human health or the environment by over 10,000 of these chemicals. A report last year in the journal Nature concluded that more than 4,000 chemicals of concern can be present in each major plastic type, such as PVC, polyurethanes, PET, polyethylene and others. Given that most of these are synthetic and non-biodegradable, public opinion has generally focussed on recycling or waste management. Over the years, however, there has been a body of scientific investigation into how these chemicals — that are indestructible — may make their way into living organisms in rivers, oceans, land and ultimately inside people.

What is evidence that plastic harms health?

Ethylene, propylene, styrene and their derivatives are

commonly used to make plastic. Ethylene derivatives such as polypropene (PP), low-density polyethylene (LDPE), linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE), high-density polyethylene (HDPE) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET) comprise the largest portion of downstream petrochemicals used to make plastic packaging. However, manufacturing them requires a range of other chemicals, several of which are monomers (the building blocks of polymers). These include bisphenols, phthalates, polychlorinated-biphenyls (PCB), polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), and per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). They are used to produce food containers, drink bottles, teething toys, polyester, intravenous bags, cosmetics, paints, electronic components, adhesives and sealants. For years, there have been a bulk of studies where medical researchers have investigated if exposure to these chemicals, via the products used, is having a discernible impact on health. Earlier this month, Boston College in the U.S. and Australia’s Minderoo Foundation launched a dashboard that compiled such evidence. There are around 1,100 primary studies involving about 1.1 million individuals that have linked changes in thyroid function, hypertension, kidney and testicular cancer, and gestational diabetes to exposure to these chemicals. The vast proportion of these individuals studied are in the developed world. Nearly, all of these studies are “associative”, in the sense that the measured disease outcome could be a result of exposure to the chemicals as well as a range of other factors, and it is not always possible to tease apart individual effects. The true “gold standard” of exposure is a “longitudinal study”, where a fixed group of people are tracked over a long time to discern the effects of chemical exposure, but this is time consuming. There are studies underway, said Dr. Sarah Paul, neuroscientist and head of Plastics and Human Health, Minderoo, to evaluate if a group of people who were consciously less exposed to certain plastics would have improved health outcomes.

What about microplastics?

Microplastics are plastics smaller than five millimetres and can refer to the constituent elements of a variety of additives or plastic products. Given that technology available to detect them is relatively recent, they have over the years been found in blood, breast milk, placenta and bone marrow. While their exact impact on human health is unclear, they too are implicated in a wide range of disorders.

What is India doing about plastic?

There is a ban on the production and use of single-use plastics in nearly 20 States. These are the category of plastic goods that are the least re-usable and difficult to recycle. Given that they constitute a waste management problem, India has a range of administrative process meant to push companies towards ensuring that a proportion of plastic that is used are collected back. However, this has had limited effect. India doesn’t yet recognise the impact of plastics and chemicals on health. In international negotiations on the global plastics treaty, India and other countries have expressed reservations on including discussions on health in the plastic treaty and said that these are matters to be taken up at the World Health Organization. Thus, plastics is primarily a waste management problem, as far as India is concerned.

# Jeremy Corbyn | The British Left’s second act



In late July 2025, Jeremy Corbyn announced the formation of a new left-wing political party alongside former Labour MP Zarah Sultana, marking a new chapter for one of Britain’s unique political figures in the past decade. Operating under the provisional name ‘Your Party’, this venture represents Mr. Corbyn’s boldest move since his expulsion, last year, from the Labour Party he once led. Mr. Corbyn is also part of the Independent Alliance, a parliamentary grouping of six independent MPs consisting of five Muslims — including Ms. Sultana as the sole woman — who have positioned themselves as vocal critics of the current Labour government’s policies on everything from welfare cuts to arms sales to Israel. The announcement has already generated strong grassroots enthusiasm, according to Mr. Corbyn, with over 6,50,000 people signing up for membership in the party’s first weeks — a figure that suggests a significant appetite for an alternative to current Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s Labour. This surge of support recalls the unexpected momentum that first propelled Mr. Corbyn to the Labour leadership nearly a decade ago.

In 2015, Mr. Corbyn’s successful bid for the Labour leadership caught the political establishment completely off guard. As Andrew Murray, one of Mr. Corbyn’s key advisers, reflected in a recent interview in Jacobin magazine, the victory was “totally unexpected” and driven by “exasperation within the Labour membership with the legacy of New Labour”. While his rivals offered tepid continuations of the (Tony) Blair-(Gordon) Brown era, Mr. Corbyn represented something genuinely different: authentic opposition to neoliberalism, a commitment to mass movement politics rather than pure parliamentary politics, and an uncompromising anti-imperialist foreign policy stance. This combination was remarkable in the context of European social democracy. Unlike left-wing movements in Spain, Germany, or France that emerged from communist traditions or as entirely new formations, Mr. Corbyn accomplished something unique in European politics: he captured the leadership of a major, mainstream, social democratic party from a position of fundamental opposition to its decades-long trajectory toward centrism. In some ways, his rise was similar to that of Bernie Sanders in the Democratic Party in the U.S. at a similar time. His programmatic positions included renationalisation of utilities, massive public investment, and wealth redistribution — policies that were always characterised as “Old Labour” and hadn’t been seriously proposed by Labour leadership in decades, except by popular but sidelined leaders like Tony Benn. The 2017 general election validated this approach. Against all expectations, Mr. Corbyn led Labour to its biggest vote swing since 1945, securing 40% of the vote — a performance matched by only two other Labour campaigns since 1970, under Mr. Blair. However, Mr. Corbyn’s functioning as Labour leader was constantly undermined by fierce resistance from within his own party. Mr. Murray estimates that at least 80% of Labour MPs opposed Mr. Corbyn “with different degrees of vehemence and for different reasons”. This internal hostility created what Mr. Murray describes as feeling “like an encampment in the middle of enemy fire the whole time, coming from your own side”. This was also exacerbated by a hostile media that lampooned or mischaracterised many of his positions ruthlessly. The opposition intensified around Mr. Corbyn’s foreign policy positions, particularly his solidarity with Palestinian rights and criticism of Israeli policies, honed over decades as a Labour back-bencher and peace activist. This anti-imperialist stance proved especially threatening to the Labour establishment, which as Mr. Murray

notes, was willing to tolerate domestic policy changes such as nationalising water companies but “if a government was going to compromise nuclear weapons or NATO or even support for Israel, those would be red lines”. This foreign policy stance became a focal point of opposition, with allegations of anti-Semitism within the Labour Party being used to attack his leadership. While Mr. Murray acknowledges there were genuine issues that needed addressing, he and others have argued that the controversy was inflated into a smear campaign with the aim of discrediting Mr. Corbyn’s critique of Israeli policies. The accusations created a “moral damage” that paralysed Mr. Corbyn’s leadership and drained energy from his team, even if they weren’t the primary factor in his eventual electoral defeat.

The issue that ultimately proved fatal to Mr. Corbyn’s leadership was Brexit. Initially, he managed to straddle Britain’s fundamental political divide by promising to “respect the referendum result” in 2016 while delivering a different Brexit than the Tories. This position helped maintain support amongst traditional Labour voters in working-class constituencies who had voted Leave, while not completely alienating Remain supporters. However, mounting pressure from a newly energised pro-EU movement and overwhelming Remain sentiment among Labour members forced him into an increasingly untenable position. By 2019, Labour had committed to a second referendum — a stance that proved electorally catastrophic. As Mr. Murray predicted, this position cost Labour dozens of seats in traditional working-class strongholds and failed to deliver equivalent gains in Remain-supporting areas. The Brexit debate starkly exposed the deep division within Labour’s electoral coalition, pitting its liberal and urban supporters against the party’s traditional working class constituency in seats that voted to leave the EU. This split mirrors similar divisions affecting left-wing parties across the developed world, where globalisation has created divergent interests between different segments of the progressive coalition, particularly seen in the Democratic Party in the U.S. with the rise of Donald Trump’s populism. Following Labour’s 2019 defeat, Mr. Starmer systematically dismantled Mr. Corbyn’s legacy within the party. Mr. Corbyn was suspended and eventually expelled, while many of his allies were marginalised or forced out. Mr. Starmer’s centrist approach proved electorally successful in 2024, delivering Labour its largest parliamentary majority in decades. However, this victory hid a glaring statistic — Labour actually received fewer votes than Mr. Corbyn had achieved in his 2019 defeat, winning primarily due to the collapse of Conservative support and vote-splitting on the Right between the Tories and Reform UK. With a historically low vote share for a winning party, Mr. Starmer’s government has struggled to maintain public support.

# The man who serves the dead at Chennai Central



Amidst the hustle and bustle at Chennai’s MGR Central Railway Station, a man in his 50s sits quietly, absorbed in his phone. On this humid afternoon, he is wearing a yellow T-shirt and khaki shorts, a sandalwood tilak smeared across his forehead, with kumkum at the centre. Behind this unassuming exterior lies a lifetime of confronting the unimaginable. N. Selvaraj, known to all at Central railway station as “Central Body Murugan”, has been retrieving bodies from the railway tracks for 36 years. For more than three decades, this station has been his place of work, his refuge, and in many ways, his home. His job is as grim as it is underappreciated, demanding a fortitude most would recoil from. Yet Murugan speaks of it with quiet pride, regarding it as his solemn duty.

“I ran away from home when I was 15,” he recalls. “I have been here ever since.” Drawn into the company of older men who performed this daunting task, Murugan gradually became part of a world where death was a constant companion. His earliest days were far from easy. “The body parts would be scattered, I would not even feel like going near it,” he admits. Senior hands advised him to drink before attending to a body, a habit he took up to dull his senses. Back then, the pay was meagre. “In total, they paid ₹8, and four of us would work together, so we shared the money,” he says. The work was relentless, often with no rest between calls. Over the years, the payment structure changed, and the responsibility for paying him shifted from railway officials to the police. “Inspector James helped increase our pay from ₹100 to ₹500 for unknown bodies and ₹250 for known ones,” Murugan recalls. Even today, the amount is inconsistent, and his monthly earnings hover between ₹5,000 and ₹6,000. The job includes lifting mangled remains, sometimes reassembling and stitching the limbs, and in one instance, placing brain matter back into a skull.

# What are the challenges confronting the EC? | Explained

The story so far: At a press conference on August 7, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi accused the Election Commission (EC) of massive electoral roll manipulations in Mahadevapura Assembly constituency in Karnataka. Mr. Gandhi’s presser capped a series of allegations of deliberate voter roll discrepancies by the EC beginning with the Maharashtra Assembly polls. This, coupled with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, which is under judicial scrutiny, has put the poll body in the eye of a storm.

What is the mandate of the EC?

The Election Commission of India is a permanent constitutional body. The Constitution has vested in the EC the superintendence, direction and control of the entire process for conduct of elections to Parliament and the legislature of every State, and to the offices of President and Vice-President of India. Originally, the commission only had a Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). It was expanded to include two Election Commissioners (ECs).

Why has there been a controversy about the appointment process?

Parliament passed a new law governing appointments to the EC, namely the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. In accordance with the new law, the ECs are selected by a three-member selection committee, comprising the Prime Minister, a Union Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. The Opposition had objected to this, saying the committee gave little room for dissent as the Prime Minister and the Union Minister are part of the government and could rule 2:1 in favour of their candidate.

Why is the EC’s role in the spotlight?

Last year, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance had alleged that lakhs of new voters had been added to Maharashtra’s electoral rolls in the time period between the Lok Sabha polls in May and the Assembly elections in October. The Congress had made the same allegations about Haryana, and later the Aam Aadmi Party alleged that voter rolls were tweaked in Delhi before Assembly polls. Even as the EC was grappling with these claims, CEC Gyanesh Kumar announced the SIR in Bihar which aims at cleaning up electoral rolls. The EC said the SIR exercise will be carried out across the country. At his press conference, Mr. Gandhi alleged large-scale discrepancies in the Mahadevapura Assembly segment under the Bangalore Central Lok Sabha constituency in Karnataka which he claimed helped the BJP win the seat. Mr. Gandhi said his party had carried out an investigation which spanned over six months before reaching this conclusion. He claimed that the voter list had manipulated entries, including duplicate voters, invalid addresses, and bulk registrations of votes at single locations. Following this, Mr. Gandhi reiterated his demand for machine readable voter rolls to be provided to all political parties for proper verification. The EC stated it has not been providing machine readable or “text-searchable” voter lists for concerns over cyber-security. The Supreme Court (SC) had upheld it in a petition filed by former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath in 2018.

When was a revision announced in Bihar?

On June 24, the EC ordered a SIR of electoral rolls in Bihar, barely five months before the Assembly elections. As per the SIR orders, every voter in Bihar who had not been listed in the 2003 voter rolls would have to submit documents proving their date and place of birth to determine whether they were Indian citizens. Those born after 1987 would also have to submit proof of their parents’ date and place of birth. However, after the completion of the first phase of the SIR exercise, the EC released a draft electoral roll on August 1, which saw a drop in the number of voters in Bihar by 65 lakh. There were 7.89 crore voters registered in the 2025 electoral list before the SIR exercise; after the recount, it slid to 7.24 crore electors. The EC said that most of these 65 lakh “missing” voters have died; are registered in two locations; have migrated out of Bihar; or are untraceable. Civil society organisations, Opposition parties as well as NGOs approached the Supreme Court challenging the SIR

In 2014, Murugan’s role became particularly visible. A bomb blast in the Guwahati-Bangalore Kaziranga Express, stationed on platform 9, shook Chennai Central, killing one person and injuring several others. Murugan was among the first to respond, retrieving the body and helping the injured. For this, he was awarded ₹1,800 from the railway department. This act of service brought him to the attention of political leaders. The now Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments P.K. Sekar Babu, and MP Dayanidhi Maran introduced him to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in 2019. He was then assured a permanent job and a steady salary. N. Selvaraj being felicitated by now Chief Minister M.K Stalin in 2019 for his service during the 2014 Chennai Central bomb blast. N. Selvaraj being felicitated by now Chief Minister M.K Stalin in 2019 for his service during the 2014 Chennai Central bomb blast. | Photo Credit: Special Arrangement

Murugan says he waited for that promise to materialise. “Now, I have given up hope that it would ever come true,” he says. A railway official who has known Murugan for years says: “Murugan has been working here for many years. Nobody knows him outside of this railway station, but he is a person who truly deserves everything. Nobody can do what he does for a living. He has grown up here.” The official explains that while Murugan is not an official porter, he sometimes carries luggage. His main work, however, is retrieving bodies, for which there is no official record. “The police receive ₹5,000 from the railway for shroud cloth and body bags, and from this, they give Murugan a portion. Labour cost is never included. The sad thing is there is no official record that he has served Chennai Central for 36 years doing the unthinkable.” The certificate he received for his service during the 2014 bomb blast The certificate he received for his service during the 2014 bomb blast | Photo Credit: Special Arrangement This absence of documentation means no benefits, no pension, and no security for his family should anything happen to him. “People who do normal work get job benefits. But for us, if we lose our life, there no one to take care of our family,” Murugan says. Today, Murugan cannot work as before. A recent accident left him with a shoulder injury. When the police call him after a fatal accident or suicide, he now rings a few younger men he has trained over the years. If they cannot bring themselves to approach the body, Murugan steps in himself. The crowds at Chennai Central may not even notice him, but Murugan remains a constant presence there, carrying the weight of the dead so that the living may move



process.

What has the SC directed EC to do?

In an interim order on August 14, the Supreme Court directed the EC to publish an enumerated, booth-wise list of the 65 lakh electors not included in the draft roll. A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi instructed the EC to provide reasons for the deletion — death, migration, untraceability, duplicate registrations — against each name. The court also asked EC to accept Aadhaar as proof of identity for an elector to include his or her name in the rolls. “That it has taken the Supreme Court to nudge the EC towards following basic norms of natural justice and fairness in the Bihar SIR exercise reflects poorly on an organisation which takes pride in collecting and counting every last vote. While errors can creep into voter lists over time, the answer to that is not mass disenfranchisement as the EC is attempting,” said Alok Kumar Prasanna, Advocate and Co-Founder of Vidhi Centre for Public Policy.

What about migrant voters?

Migrant voters still have to return to the place where they are on the rolls to vote. This is a huge cost and depresses turnout, notes Mr. Prasanna. “There is no simple solution to this currently. The solution will have to be cheap, secure and transparent to work. Solutions which work in richer societies and for richer migrants will not work for poor migrants from States like Bihar,” he added.

What has been the political fallout?

After Mr. Gandhi’s press conference, the Opposition upped the ante and tried to hold a march from Parliament to the Election Commission headquarters. They courted arrest when stopped. The ongoing monsoon session of Parliament has also been virtually paralysed over demands for a discussion on the Bihar SIR. The government has, however, not conceded to the Opposition’s demand. The issue has brought Opposition parties together and protests are likely to continue when Parliament reconvenes on August 18.

# Catholic priest’s presence at RSS event in Pala raises eyebrows

At a time when the Catholic Church in Kerala has been voicing concern over attacks on Christians in central and northern States of India, the participation of a priest from the Pala diocese of the Syro-Malabar Church at an event of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has raised a few eyebrows. Father George Nellikunnu Cherivu Purayidom, director of Care Homes project under the Pala diocese and Deepika Friends Club, presided over Shankholi 2025, a student summit jointly organised by the Poonjar, Meenachil and Ramapuram units of the RSS on Friday (August 15). Addressing the gathering, Father Purayidom said that it was the generation inspired by India’s spiritual heritage and the freedom struggle that went on to shape modern India. Today’s younger generation must strive to project the nation’s glory on the world stage, making effective use of organisation and technology.



# Russian oil and US trade talks: Latest Trump claim frames Delhi’s challenge



ONCE again, US President Donald Trump has made a claim that may not square with facts — but is so closely linked to the ongoing diplomatic negotiations between India and US that New Delhi has little option but to tread with caution. Trump claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured him Wednesday that India would stop buying Russian oil. The Ministry of External Affairs Thursday denied knowledge of any such conversation and reiterated its stated position on the Russian purchase for which the US had slapped an extra 25% tariff penalty in August. New Delhi’s task ahead is cut out even as a trade delegation is engaged in a fresh round of talks to seal a bilateral trade deal.

Trump’s public posturing makes it all the more difficult for India to cut back on Russian oil immediately even if it wanted to. Oil, Russia’s biggest source of revenue, is a lever that the Trump administration believes it can use to force Kremlin’s hand into ending the Ukraine war. New Delhi is the second-largest buyer of its oil after Beijing, and is in the midst of sensitive trade pact negotiations with Washington. New Delhi’s line is clear that it will not compromise on its strategic autonomy and will not be dictated to by anyone on whom it should be doing business with, particularly when it comes to Russia—an old and key strategic partner.

The government had not issued any directive to Indian refiners on Russian crude, and public sector refiners maintained that their decisions on buying oil from Russia, or anywhere else for that matter, was guided purely by economic and commercial considerations. If India were to stop buying the discounted Russian crude, doing that quickly would be complicated and costly. Trump, too, said as much — that India could not stop buying Russian oil immediately and the process had started. Stopping Russian crude imports isn’t as simple as turning off a tap—it’s tied to long-term contracts, operational setups, and market adaptability that can’t be undone overnight.

“He (Modi) has assured me that there will be no oil purchased from Russia... He’s not buying his oil from Russia. It’s started. You know, he can’t do it immediately. It’s a little bit of a process, but the process is gonna be over soon,” Trump said. India’s Russian oil imports in September declined only slightly compared to August, indicating that US rhetoric has had no telling impact yet on Indian refiners’ oil purchases. India-bound crude oil loadings at Russian ports in September were also largely stable at August levels. So far in October, India’s Russian oil imports are trending higher than the levels seen over the past three months. India’s Russian oil imports in September were 1.60 million barrels per day (bpd), down around 5 per cent from August levels, according to provisional vessel tracking data from global real-time data and analytics provider Kpler. As of October 10, India’s Russian oil imports have averaged at 1.81 million bpd. Oil loadings headed for India at Russian ports averaged at 1.52 million bpd, flat on a month-on-month basis.

Notably, destinations of sizable volumes of Russian crude loadings in September—over 300,000 bpd—were not known, and much of this oil could make its way to India, according to industry watchers.

Industry sources said the slight dip in volumes of Russian oil imports into India in recent months appears to have been more because of the rise in freight cost and a narrowing of discounts on Russian crude rather than pressure from the US. Despite the slight decline in volumes, Russian oil continues to command a one-third share in India’s total oil imports. The Indian government has consistently maintained that the country will buy oil from wherever it gets the best deal, as long as the oil is not under sanctions. There are no sanctions on Russian oil; it is only subject to a price cap imposed by the US and its allies that applies if Western shipping and insurance services are used for transporting the oil. Although there have been no strong signals of any meaningful reduction in oil imports from Russia, there has been a stronger push for diversification of supply from various regions by India’s public sector refiners. While there has been some reduction in import of Russian crude by the public sector refiners in recent months, private sector refiners’ imports have remained strong.

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Moscow’s share in New Delhi’s oil imports was less than 2 per cent. With much of the West snubbing Russian crude following the invasion, Russia began offering discounts on its oil to willing buyers. Indian refiners were quick to avail of the opportunity, leading to Russia—earlier a peripheral supplier of oil to India—emerging as India’s biggest source of crude with a commanding market share, displacing the traditional West Asian suppliers. And while discounts on Russian crude have narrowed considerably over time, even lower discount levels are lucrative for India, given that the country in the world’s third-largest importer of crude oil and depends on imports to meet around 88 per cent of its requirement. Replacing such massive volumes of Russian crude is no mean task. In the eventuality that they are indeed forced to replace the Russian barrels, a multi-regional approach would be required, which would entail buying a lot more from India’s traditional oil suppliers in West Asia like Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, while also increasing imports from other regions—West Africa, North America, and Latin America. According to experts, while Indian refiners can operate without Russian crude from a technical standpoint, the shift would involve major economic and strategic trade-offs. At the very least, India would try and work out a calibrated reduction of oil imports from Russia over an extended period, instead of a complete halt in purchases. West Asian medium-sour crude grades, while closer in quality to Russia’s flagship Urals crude, come with higher costs, tighter availability, and logistical challenges, which could make the transition to these barrels commercially painful for Indian refiners, although not prohibitive. “A full stop on Russian crude would involve major logistical, political, and economic hurdles. At best, India might slowly scale down imports under pressure, but treating this as a done deal would be premature... Even if there’s an intent to reduce imports, it won’t happen overnight,” said Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst, Refining & Modeling at Kpler. Forcing India to halt Russian crude imports without a universal embargo also risks intensifying competition for the same pool of non-Russian barrels. While alternatives exist—from the Middle East, Africa, or the US—they come with higher costs, tighter availability, and logistical challenges. A sudden redirection of Indian demand would tighten regional balances and likely push up oil prices, affecting both affordability and refining economics.

# Abbott’s ‘Project Ksheersagar:’ Empowering Indian Dairy Farmers and Supporting the Local Milk Supply



Good nutrition starts with quality ingredients. To help meet the demand for nutritional products in India, healthcare company, Abbott, recognized the need for a dependable supply of high-quality milk. In 2022, Abbott partnered with TechnoServe, an international non-profit, to launch “Project Ksheersagar”—a shared-value initiative in India committed to helping dairy farmers. The initiative aims to transform farmers’ lives and empower them to create a sustainable raw milk supply chain in the country. Today, Abbott shares how the initiative has positively impacted Indian farmers and families who depend on Abbott’s nutritional products.

Launched in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, Project Ksheersagar invests in farmers by helping them open bank accounts, pursue employment opportunities, and receive training in financial literacy and dairy farm management best practices to grow their business. This work builds on earlier projects implemented over the past decade to support dairy farmers in India. Abbott and TechnoServe work closely with farmers to improve milk production and guide them to provide nutritious cattle feed and improve animal husbandry practices. The program has set up 130 village-based milk collection centers for reliable cold storage, making it easier for farmers to deliver quality milk and increase their income.

“This initiative benefits the local farming community as well as families who depend on Abbott’s nutritional products,” said Joydeep Dutta, Country Director, TechnoServe India. “By adopting standardized dairy practices, Indian farmers have improved milk quality and productivity—while increasing their incomes and gaining valuable knowledge.” So far, Abbott has engaged over 12,000 dairy farmers, creating a more sustainable supply chain. The project aims to benefit around 51,000 dairy animals by implementing best practices, reducing antibiotic use, and improving animal care standards across more than 1,000 farms. This initiative has reduced veterinary costs by 60% and increasing milk production by 55% over the course of the project. “Project Ksheersagar is part of Abbott’s efforts to create a sustainable and resilient raw milk supply chain,” said Shibasish Pramanik, Supply Chain Director for Abbott’s nutrition business in India. “This initiative helps family busi-

nesses succeed and creates opportunities for future generations. It also allows Abbott to locally source high-quality milk for our nutrition products. We expect to source 60% of our milk powder needs from farmers in the program, adding real value to our nutrition business and the families who rely on our products.” This initiative is a key step in creating a sustainable and resilient dairy supply chain in India. Through strategic collaboration, education, and targeted investment, Abbott is enhancing livelihoods and fostering an agricultural ecosystem in India that benefits farmers, animals, and consumers alike.

# India negotiates trade from position of strength, says Piyush Goyal

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday that India has undergone a significant shift in recent years and that it now negotiates from a position of strength, reflecting the country’s growing economic confidence and global stature in terms of India’s approach to Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and other trading arrangements. Addressing the annual conference and 105th annual general meeting of Assocham in New Delhi, Goyal said the country is now engaging primarily with nations that are not competitors to India, ensuring that trade partnerships are balanced and mutually beneficial. The Minister stated that gone are the days when India entered into imbalanced free trade agreements without recognising its own strengths. He noted that this strategic approach allows India to safeguard its domestic industries, promote exports, and create opportunities for investment and technology collaboration, while avoiding agreements that could disproportionately benefit the other party at India’s expense. The Minister informed that India’s foreign exchange reserves continue to be robust at around \$700 billion, reflecting the strong fundamentals of the Indian economy. He said that in every respect, the people of India, businesses, and industry together represent a new dynamism, enthusiasm, and confidence that were not witnessed a few years ago. The Minister said that the world today recognises India as an important trading partner and a trusted country to work with. He observed that the days when India used to negotiate trade agreements from a position of weakness are over, and that the Indian passport now commands respect and value across the world. Goyal pointed out that while the world is facing challenging global times, India continues to demonstrate resilience and remains the fastest-growing economy. He referred to the recent IMF projection that raised India’s growth forecast from 6.4 to 6.6 per cent.

# Is kidney damage linked to mercury in skin-lightening creams bought online? Study finds eight brands with levels a thousand times higher than legal limit



Beware of skin lightening creams that you have been buying from online marketplaces because they contain mercury levels a thousand times higher than the legal limit set by governments, triggering serious health issues like kidney failure, according to a latest report. Ahead of a meeting of the Minamata Convention, which is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury, the Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG) has released a new report documenting the availability of dangerous and often illegal mercury-added skin lightening products on marketplace platforms worldwide.

Of the 31 creams tested, 25 were found to contain mercury thousands of times higher than the 1 ppm usual legal limit. Toxics Link from India tested eight skin lightening creams of different brands manufactured in India, Pakistan and Thailand and found the mercury concentration in seven samples to be in the range of 7331 ppm to 27,431 ppm. In contrast, only a few mercury-added products were found on platforms in the US and the European Union (EU), indicating how unsuspecting and unaware customers were exposed to risks in unregulated online marketplaces.

“While Indian brands in the organised sector comply with norms, the continued availability of highly toxic, non-compliant skin lightening creams by foreign and unorganised sector manufacturers on online marketplaces is a serious violation of national regulations. Since 2023, we have been highlighting cases of kidney diseases, even failure, from excess mercury in creams. Three women of a family in Akola, Maharashtra, had suffered kidney damage after applying heavy mercury-laden creams,” says Satish Sinha, associate director, Toxics Link, who has been working with doctors across the country to track usage and side effects of skin lightening products marketed online.

What do mercury-laden creams do to the skin?

Many unregulated fairness and skin-lightening creams

# New gut health supplement: Gujarat researchers use citrus fruit peel to feed good bacteria



We all need good gut bacteria to absorb nutrients and boost our immunity shield against infection. But they need the right food or prebiotics, which are fibres found in fruits and vegetables. But what if you can’t have enough of roughage? Then you could take a prebiotic supplement that has been developed from fruit peels by researchers at the Gujarat Biotechnology University (GBU) and nourish your good bacteria. It is likely to be introduced in the Indian market soon. pectic oligosaccharides, a kind of complex carbohydrate, from a sustainable and widely available source. That happens to be pectin — a natural, soluble fibre found in the peel (rind) of citrus fruits, apart from apples and a few others. They narrowed down their choice to Kinnow Mandarin, a hybrid orange citrus fruit. The findings were published in the Elsevier journal in August. The researchers, who have filed for provisional patent, say they have enhanced the supplement with an enzyme to come up with a powder-based product that, when consumed as a dietary supplement of four grams a day, for 21 days, can help in the proliferation of good gut bacteria.

Why the Kinnow Mandarin?

Dr Ravindra Pal Singh, corresponding author of the paper along with Raja Bhaiyya, Dipak Gayen, and Sukesh Chander Sharma, says they used the fruit because of its abundance in the vicinity of their research site in Punjab. “We used about 50 kg of peel waste of the citrus fruit, Kinnow

contain mercury, a heavy metal that is highly toxic to the nervous system, liver and the kidneys. “Mercury is used in skin-lightening products because it suppresses melanin, the pigment that acts as a natural sunscreen by blocking harmful UV rays, leading to a lighter complexion. It pauses the enzyme necessary for melanin creation, and is also used as a preservative in some cosmetics,” says Dr D M Mahajan, senior dermatologist, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Delhi. According to him, many users don’t know that such creams can build dependent behaviour. “Because the skin lightening effect is immediate, users develop a dependence. But such creams damage the skin’s protective barrier. So when you stop using it, the skin can go worse, with irritation, redness, patches, tingling sensations and even temporary loss of hair or skin. This is known as a reverse phenomenon,” says Dr Mahajan.

What are side effects?

Apart from the skin, there are other effects. Chronic exposure to mercury through these creams is a known cause of nephrotic syndrome, a condition where the kidneys leak excessive protein into the urine. “Over time this can lead to renal failure and we have recorded cases. It can cause sores in the mouth, affect the nervous system, triggering tremors and itching,” says Dr Mahajan.

How does mercury get into the body by topical application of creams?

Inhalation is the commonest route, by which the mercury vapour gets to the lung and damages it over time. “It can get in accidentally through lips, where the cream or lotion may spill on to and the user may lick it unconsciously. This way it gets absorbed in the gut. Then there is mucosal absorption through the eyes,” says Dr Mahajan. But the reason it goes straight to the kidneys in big amounts is because of its absorption through the skin. “The average skin surface area is 1.73 sq metres, so if you are using a lightening lotion, then the absorption is quite a bit,” he explains.

How to prevent usage of mercury-laden products?

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a product contains mercury if you see the label containing Calomel, Cinnabaris, Hydrargyri oxydum rubrum or Quick-silver. If you see the word “mercury” or “mercuric” on the list of ingredients, that also means the product contains mercury. Check for a warning that tells you to keep the product away from silver, gold, rubber, aluminium, and jewellery because mercury can damage these. “Always consult a dermatologist for skin lightening treatments. If it is a foreign cream, see if it is US FDA (Food and Drug Administration-approved),” advises Dr Mahajan. “Only tested and certified products must be retailed on country online platforms,” argues Sinha.

Mandarin (citrus reticulata), in developing this product, which was procured from a local fruit vendor in Mauli Baidwan village of Mohali in Punjab,” he says. He had earlier conducted a similar study on apple peel and says that had their field work been in Maharashtra, he would have used Nagpur oranges. “We extracted pectin from the peel and used various chemically and enzymatic methods to turn it into a specific and structurally definable pectic-oligosaccharide (POS). We then tested it on a human faecal sample of a 30-year-old healthy male with no sickness or antibiotic intake in the last six months. We enriched the human faecal sample with POS dietary supplement and used Quantitative Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RTQ-PCR) to see whether the amount of good gut bacteria had increased. It did,” he says.

Why are fruit peels a friend of good gut bacteria?

The high fibre content in fruit peels acts as a prebiotic, which feeds and promotes the growth of beneficial gut microorganisms like lactobacillus. When gut bacteria ferment the fibre, they break down polyphenols and convert them into a more usable form for the body. Polyphenols can help strengthen the intestinal barrier and help good bugs survive the digestive tract. The fermentation process in the gut can lead to the production of short-chain fatty acids (SCFAs), which are beneficial for gut and systemic health. The fibre in peels helps in digestion and maintains regular bowel movements.

Whom can such a supplement benefit?

This is especially for those who have been consuming antibiotics for a long time and need to restore their gut health. “Our doctors and dieticians could prescribe such a product when their patient cannot have dietary fibres,” says Dr Singh. Given that the supplement has been derived from complex carbohydrates, but carbohydrates all the same, researchers have taken care to remove glucose monosaccharides from their product through an enzymatic process. “There is no glucose content in the supplement at all, keeping in mind that the patient could be living with diabetes or obesity,” says Dr Singh.

# Meet the bird, lighter than a bar of chocolate, that covers twice the distance of Earth as it migrates

Imagine flying from the top of the world to the bottom (and back!) every single year. That’s exactly what the Arctic Tern does. This small seabird, the size of an average sandwich, makes a round-trip migration of up to 70,000 kilometres annually. To put that into perspective: it’s like flying around the Earth twice in one go. And yet, the Arctic Tern weighs just about 100 grams, lighter than a bar of chocolate.

The bird nests in the Arctic during summer, when the sun never really sets, and flies to the Antarctic to enjoy the southern summer. Then it does the whole thing in reverse. According to studies by the British Antarctic Survey and the National Geographic Society, Arctic Terns log more flight mileage than any other creature on Earth. In fact, over its 30-year lifespan, a single tern may travel more than 2.4 million kilometres. That’s roughly three round-trips to the Moon. Arctic tern sleeping capabilities on-flight Despite their delicate appearance, Arctic Terns are resilient (file)

How do they do it?

Scientists used lightweight geolocators to track their migration paths. What they discovered was astonishing. Not only do these birds travel huge distances, but they also take curved, wind-optimised routes rather than straight lines. This helps them glide more efficiently and cover vast stretches with minimal energy. Their wings are long and slender, perfectly built for long-distance flight. What’s more, Arctic Terns feed mid-flight, snatching small fish and krill from the water’s surface. One of the most poetic aspects of the Arctic Tern’s journey is that it lives in near-constant daylight. By flying between the polar regions, it experiences two summers each year, and more daylight than any other animal.

Despite their delicate appearance, Arctic Terns are resilient. They face storms, harsh weather, and predators, yet their migration patterns have remained largely unchanged for millennia. However, climate change poses a growing threat. Melting polar ice, rising sea levels, and shifting fish populations may eventually disrupt their incredible voyages.



# Donald Trump’s granddaughter Kai to make LPGA Tour debut on sponsor’s exemption before she starts college



GNS News Agency,Oct 30

When one is arguably the most powerful (and influential) man on the planet, a lot of doors open for their family and others close to them. It's no different in the case of current US president Donald Trump.His grand-daughter Kai, 18, is due to play college golf for Miami Hurricanes but before that will make her debut on the LPGA Tour, the toughest and most prestigious circuit in the women's game, when she tees up at the Annika at Pelican Golf Club in Florida from November 13-16 November. Kai will play on a sponsor's exemption the penultimate event on the LPGA schedule, which has a prize fund of \$3.25 million.

Kai is the eldest daughter of Donald Trump Jr and has committed to play golf at the University of Miami in 2026, BBC Sport reported."My dream has been to compete with the best in the world on the LPGA Tour," she said in a statement. "This event will be an incredible experience. I look

forward to meeting and competing against so many of my heroes and mentors in golf as I make my LPGA Tour debut."Her wish may be realised as the tournament as the field includes stalwarts such as world number two Nelly Korda, England's Charley Hull, Lexi Thompson and 2023 champion Lilia Vu.

Kai has more than six million followers across her social media platforms and recently launched her own apparel and lifestyle brand. The LPGA is keen to piggyback on her visibility and profile."Sponsor invitations are an important way to spotlight emerging talent and bring new attention to our tournaments and the LPGA," said Ricki Lasky, LPGA's chief tour business and operations officer. "We're excited to see her take this next step in her journey."The tour added that Kai's "broad following and reach are helping introduce golf to new audiences, especially among younger fans."Kai is currently a senior at Benjamin School, a private institution in Palm Beach County of the Sunshine State. She plays in amateur events nationally with the American Junior Golf Association and locally in Florida and is currently No 461 in the AJGA (American Junior Golf Association) Girls ranking, having appeared in three events this year, the Associated Press reported.Kai made an emotional speech in support of her grandfather during the Republican National Convention, supporting his 2024 presidential campaign.Trump is himself an avid golfer and owns several courses around the world. But according to the Book 'Commander in Cheat: How Golf Explains Trump', by Rick Reilly, he doesn't play the game in a fair manner, lies about his scores, and violates the game's etiquette.

# ‘You have already made me the villain’: Mohammed Shami reacts to non-selection controversy after regaining rhythm in Ranji Trophy



GNS News Agency,Oct 30

India pacer Mohammed Shami reacted to the controversy swirling around his non-selection and snub from the national team after putting on a stellar performance for Bengal in the Ranji Trophy second round match on Tuesday.

Powering Bengal to the win with a five-wicket haul in the fourth innings against Gujarat at the Eden Gardens in

Kolkata, Shami was asked to open about the selection controversy and his response to the chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar, who had recently urged the veteran seamer to prove his match fitness by playing more games.Speaking after a haul of 5/38 powered Bengal to a 141-run win, Shami reacted to reporters by saying,

"Yes, I knew this question would come. I'm always in controversy anyway. You people have already made me the villain! What else can I do or say? In today's world, social media twists everything."My job is to perform well. Wherever I get an opportunity, I'll give my best. The rest is up to God. Bengal is my home. Every match I play for Bengal is like a memory for me."Shami was out for over a year's action since the 2023 ODI World Cup final in Ahmedabad before making his return to represent India in the Champions Trophy. His last appearance for India was on March 9, 2025, in their victorious Champions Trophy final over New Zealand in Dubai."Coming out of a difficult phase and performing well gives a lot of satisfaction. The time after the World Cup was tough and painful.

# After Mohammed Shami’s match-winning haul in Ranji Trophy, coach says he’s back in rhythm and ready for India duty

GNS News Agency,Oct 30

Soon after starring with a five-wicket haul in Bengal's 141-run win over Gujarat in a Group C Ranji Trophy match at the Eden Gardens, Mohammed Shami posted a picture of himself on social media. 'Grateful for the rhythm and hard work paying off', the post read. His second innings bowling figures were seen on the ball in Shami's hand.Rhythm has been the key to the veteran fast bowler's effectiveness throughout his international career spanning more than a decade. Now that he has regained it, his childhood coach, Moradabad-based Mohammed Badruddin, believes the Shami of old is more or less back."His rhythm has returned and that happens when he is 100 percent match-fit. Rhythm is what matters when it comes to Shami. Once he gets his rhythm, he's a different bowler. What I saw today was the Shami of old. I didn't see anything missing. His seam position was good and he seemed to be enjoying bowling. Seam aisa chal raha tha ki pata hi nahi chalta batsmen ko ki kidhar chalega ball (seam position was so good that the batsmen didn't know which way the ball would move)," Badruddin told on Tuesday.Shami's action looked smooth, he got the ball to angle in from around the wicket and move away from the left-hander, generated reverse swing later in the innings, and bowled a mean bouncer. The shiny side of the ball gleamed when he got the seam position spot on even though he seemed a few yards off his top pace.With his eight-wicket match haul, Shami's tally in two Ranji Trophy matches, the first being against Uttarakhand, is now 15. Above all, after a question mark over his fitness because of lack of enough matches under his belt – a reason given by chief selector Ajit Agarkar for his non-inclusion in the Indian team – Shami bowled 28.3 overs in the Gujarat game.

Speaking after the game, the 35-year-old, who played in this year's IPL with limited success, said he had not lost the motivation to play for the country."My motivation is to stay fit and be available for the Indian team at all times. I will continue to perform and the rest is in the selectors' hands. It's a relief. Mentally, physically, it feels very good, because you are coming back from such a difficult time (injury). The time after the (2023) World Cup was tough. But then I played the Ranji Trophy, white-ball cricket, the IPL, Champions Trophy and Duleep Trophy (earlier this year). Now my



rhythm is back to where it was before. I can clearly feel there's still a lot of cricket left in me," Shami said.Mohammad Shami Bengal Bengal pacer Mohammed Shami holds up the ball in celebration after claiming a five-wicket haul on the fourth day of the Ranji Trophy match against Gujarat, at Eden Gardens, Kolkata, Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025. (PTI Photo)

With Gujarat chasing 327 for a win, Shami delivered with the very first ball of the innings – one that angled in and moved away – to dismiss opener Abhishek Desai, caught by wicketkeeper Abishek Porel. He also got the well-set Urvil Patel, who scored a century, to edge a ball that moved away but it was just wide of the wicketkeeper. The ball that curved in and rattled the stumps was too good for lower-order batsman Vishal Jayswal and a similar one got rid of Siddharth Desai. Medium-pacer Arzan Nagwaswalla was ill-equipped skill-wise to deal with the sharp bouncer that flew off his gloves to the wicketkeeper.Badruddin says Shami would be ready for white-ball cricket if given an opportunity."After injury, it takes time for a bowler to get back into rhythm. There is a bit of difference between international and domestic games, but once he plays one international match, he will find his rhythm again. He has been bowling enough overs to prove that he is fit. He just needs to keep playing matches and the wickets will follow. Ideally, he should have been part of the India A squad that will play South Africa in the four-day games," the coach said.

# Nikhat Zareen on how to deal with hectic boxing schedule: Pick and choose tournaments for maximum impact

GNS News Agency,Oct 30

Two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen has asked for better planning when it comes to participation in global tournaments to avoid burnout and ensure that boxers peak at the right time.Nikhat is scheduled to take part in the World Boxing Cup finals starting in Greater Noida on November 14 and believes it's important to pace oneself to get optimum results."Boxing has a packed season and there are back-to-back tournaments. One has to pick and choose competitions to gain the most ranking points," Nikhat told reporters on Tuesday at a promotional event ahead of the event.

Since a new world governing body, World Boxing took over the reins of the sport, it has introduced a points-based system where competitors are ranked according to their performance in global and continental events. The accumulated points decide the seedings at major events such as World Championships.Jaismine Lamboria, Minakshi, Nikhat Zareen World Boxing Cup Former World Champion boxer Nikhat Zareen (in picture) and reigning World champion Jaismine Lamboria will headline the Indian boxing squad for the upcoming World Boxing Cup Finals. (AP)

The 29-year-old said the year-long circuit makes it difficult for a boxer to stay at their best for a long period."As human beings, it is tough to maintain a peak with such a hectic schedule. We need proper planning. Since the Elite Women's Tournament in Hyderabad in July, I haven't had much time. I compete every month but sometimes it's important to have a break for recovery," the 51 kg category boxer said."After the World Championships (in September), I immediately went to Patiala knowing that I didn't have much time for this (World Cup finals) tournament. After this, we have the nationals in December. The Asian Championships is scheduled for January and in March, we have the first World Cup of 2026. So, we need to pick and choose tournaments which offer the most ranking points for us."

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) selects boxers for a tournament after an assessment camp. "Every month there is a competition and before that, an assessment. Hence, we are preparing to get into the national team more than preparing for the tournament," Nikhat said.At the beginning of the year, Nikhat had emphasised the importance of mental health at the elite level."2024 was hectic. 2023



was also full of competitions and camps. Now I know how much I should push myself and in which competition. Everyone wants to win competitions. But no one can push themselves more than their mental health allows. If you lose, you lose," Nikhat had written for The Indian Express.Referring to the same topic on Tuesday, she said, "Sometimes I think I need a mental health break so that I can go to the mountains and get some fresh air."The Olympian said proper planning was needed to allow the second rung of Indian boxers to get some exposure and competition while the elite pugilists get some recovery time. "BFI is getting a new High Performance Director soon and we will plan it together with coaches on how to get the plan in place."After an early exit from the 2024 Paris Olympics, Nikhat returned to action at the World Championships last month, losing to a familiar foe, Turkey's Buse Naz Cakiroglu in the quarterfinals."You are coming back after a one-year break and still are a part of Team India. Then you win two bouts before losing to a very good boxer, a two-time Olympic silver medallist. I would appreciate that I didn't give up," Nikhat reflected.Since then, she has spent more time in the camp and has been sparring with different boxers. I have worked on the mistakes I made at the World Championship. We spar three times a week and have to face different boxers in every round. I am positive about my preparations going into the World Cup finals," she said.Nikhat is part of the 20-member Indian team for the World Boxing Cup finals. The tournament pits top-ranked fighters in the World Boxing rankings against each other. India is fielding pugilists in each category by virtue of being the host.

# Rohit Sharma dethrones Shubman Gill, becomes No.1 ODI batter in ICC Rankings for first time in career

GNS News Agency,Oct 30

Rohit Sharma became the ICC ODI No.1 batter for the first time in his career on Wednesday. (AP Photo)Rohit Sharma became the ICC ODI No. 1 batter for the first time in his career on Wednesday. ICC Ranking Batsman ODI: Amid talks of his potential retirement from international cricket, India opener Rohit Sharma has surged to the top of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) ODI batting rankings during the latest update announced on Wednesday.Aged 38 years and 182 days, Rohit is the oldest batter ever to achieve the top spot in the ICC men's ODI batting rankings and is claiming the landmark for the first time in his career. India legend Sachin Tendulkar is the only other batter to top the charts after the age of 38, having recorded the feat in 2011 in the Test format.Rohit made a solid return to ODI cricket after seven months as he topped the batting charts in the recent three-match series in Australia, scoring 202 runs in three innings. He powered India to a nine-wicket in the third ODI in Sydney, recording his 33th ODI and 50th international century.

Rohit gained 36 rating points from 741 to reach 781 and dethroned his India teammate and fellow opener Shubman Gill to claim the top spot. Previously, Rohit had reached a career-high 882 rating points at No. 2 during the 2019 World Cup where he slammed a record five centuries.Record-breaking run in OzThe Mumbaikar broke a heap of records during the three-match series in Australia, bookended by his match-winning century at SCG.Most runs as India opener: Rohit surpassed Virender Sehwag's



run tally (15,758) to become the highest run-scorer among all Indian openers across formats in 11 fewer inn Most hundreds as India opener: The Mumbaikar also equalled Sachin Tendulkar's tally of 45 international centuries as an opener, the most for India. Only David Warner has struck more tons as an opener in international cricket (49). Most ODI hundreds vs Australia: Rohit also equalled Tendulkar for the most ODI centuries against Australia with his ninth century in only 49 innings.Most 100s vs AUS in ODI: 9 – ?????????? ?????????? (49 Innings); 9 – Sachin Tendulkar (70 Innings); 8 – Virat Kohli (51 Innings) Second-oldest Indian to score ODI hundred: Aged 38 years and 178d days, Rohit is the second-oldest Indian to record an ODI hundred behind Tendulkar (38yrs 327d) Extends SENA dominance: Rohit racked up his 14th century in SENA countries, the most among all visiting ODI batters.

# ‘Tell your husband to go easy on me, he is rude’: KL Rahul reveals fun banter with England legend’s wife

GNS News Agency,Oct 30

KL Rahul and Kevin Pietersen's fun banter made for fun viewing during the IPL 2025 season where both of them shared the Delhi Capitals dressing room. While Rahul had just slotted in from the Lucknow Super Giants, Pietersen had been roped in as mentor of the Delhi franchise for the season.After Rahul's superb knocks in the league, Pietersen would also laud the Karnataka batter for his changed mindset about batting in T20s. Pietersen had once posted on social media while on IPL commentary duties that, "Watching KL Rahul bat in the Powerplays is the most boring thing I have ever been through."The banter would continue when Rahul roasted Pietersen for flying off to the Maldives for a brief holiday between games in the league stage. Speaking on a recent podcast, Rahul revealed how his wife, Athiya Shetty, had questioned him for being rude to Pietersen. He also recounted his interaction with Pietersen's wife during the 2025 tour to England in June."Our banter is different. He is a great sport. He gives it to you also. There was this video, and there were two-three times where I said something and DC posted it on the Insta page. So, my wife was telling me, 'Why are you being so mean? He is such a sweet guy.'"I said, 'Half the things that he does



to me and tells me, that doesn't come out.' This is three times that I have given out of the 100 times he is after my life. I complained to his wife when we were in UK. They invited me for dinner and I told, 'Tell your husband to go easy on me. He is very rude to me.'" said Rahul on the 2 Sloggers YouTube channel.Rahul enjoyed a highly successful Test series in England, amassing 532 runs across 10 innings. This prolific run included two centuries and two half-centuries.

# Tennis Premier League announces return of Race to Gold Masters Tournaments 2025

Hyderabad: In what is a major boost for the tennis ecosystem in India, the Tennis Premier League (TPL), powered by Clear Premium Water, is thrilled to announce the return of the TPL Race to Gold Masters Tournaments 2025.Designed to attract the best young tennis players across the country through the TPL App, the TPL Race to Gold Masters Tournaments 2025 is a premier competition that will be played in three different phases in India.The TPL Race to Gold Masters will commence with the North Zone in New Delhi on November 15 and 16 at the DLTA Stadium, and be followed by the Gujarat leg in Ahmedabad on November 22 and 23 at the Gujarat University Tennis Stadium. The caravan's final pit stop will be the Maharashtra leg in Mumbai on November 29 and 30 at the MSLTA Stadium.All three Masters are being held in association with the respective State tennis associations – Gujarat State Tennis Association (GSTA), Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA), Delhi Lawn Tennis Association (DLTA) and Haryana Tennis Association (HTA).The TPL Race to Gold Masters provides a unique platform for emerging tennis players, giving them the opportunity to showcase

their skills and earn recognition at the national level using TPL's unique and exciting 25-point format.Top-ranked players of each Race to Gold Masters Zone across Under-10, 12 and 14 years boys and girls, men and women Open categories will receive scholarships worth 775,000.The champions will also be felicitated live on television during the upcoming seventh season of the Tennis Premier League set to be held in Ahmedabad from 9th to 14th December, celebrating their achievement on one of India's biggest tennis stages. The winners get a chance to interact with Indian tennis legends Leander Paes and Rohan Bopanna and play with some of the top players in TPL Season 7 such as Luciano Darder, Arthur Rinderknech, Corentin Moutet, Alexandre Muller and Shrivalli Bhamidipaty.Speaking about the initiative, Kunal Thakkur, Co-Founder of the Tennis Premier League, said, "The Race to Gold Masters is one of our proudest initiatives because it directly connects grassroots tennis with the professional circuit and gives these youngsters national exposure and appreciation. The response from young players on the TPL App has been overwhelming, and this tournament gives them a pathway to be recognised."Co-Founder Mrunal Jain added, "





